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CONDOS ARE SET
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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, December 11, 2014



SHUTDOWN SHOWDOWN

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio pauses before meeting with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014, following a House GOP caucus meeting. With time running short before Congress adjourns, Republicans and Democrats agreed Tuesday on a \$1.1 trillion spending bill to avoid a government shut-down and delay a politically-charged struggle over President Barack Obama's new immigration policy until the New Year.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

House to Vote on \$1.1 Trillion Spending Bill

ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — A \$1.1 trillion spending bill that would allow the U.S. government to avoid yet another shutdown faces its first test in the House of Representatives.

The 1,603-page measure will be scrutinized in advance of a House vote Thursday. Support from the top leaders in both the House and the Senate appears to guarantee its passage and prevent a government shutdown Thursday midnight.

Still, conservatives are unhappy because the bill fails to challenge Obama's immigration policy and many Democrats are displeased because it weakens regulation of risky financial instruments.

And on Wednesday, Democratic support for the bill appeared to be fading. "I'm not going to support it. I've already found lots of provisions that are against the public interest," said Rep. Chris Van Hollen. "I find it surprising that some

people are threatening to shut down the government in order to extract big benefits for big banks at the expense of consumers and taxpayers."

Continued on page 3

Bitter Mideast greets torture report with shrug

JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — This week's revelations about the CIA's harsh treatment of terror suspects in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks have been met with a collective shrug in the broader Middle East,

ees at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, huddled before snarling dogs and stacked in crude human pyramids. "Arabs were angry about U.S. torture in Iraq 10 years ago, so if anything this seems rather quaint, that the Americans are having

have been expected to seize on the report, but their reaction too was muted. That's in part because many U.S. allies in the region were directly implicated in the rendition and interrogation programs. Also, nearly all Arab govern-

inhuman and unjustifiable practices detailed in the report," he said in a press conference. But his decision to speak out says as much about today's Afghanistan as that of 13 years ago, when U.S. and allied forces snatched

Ex-leader: Poland agreed to host CIA site, not torture

MONIKA SCISLOWSKA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — After years of denials, two former Polish leaders acknowledged Wednesday they had allowed a secret CIA prison to operate on their territory but insisted they never authorized the harsh treatment or torture of its inmates.

Former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, 60, and former Prime Minister Leszek Miller, 68, spoke to journalists in Warsaw after a U.S. Senate report condemning CIA practices at secret prisons was released Tuesday in Washington.

The report did not identify the host countries.

"The U.S. side asked the Polish side to find a quiet site where it could conduct activity that would allow to effectively obtain information from persons who had declared a readiness to cooperate with the U.S. side," Kwasniewski said. "We gave our consent to that."

"He said Poland demanded that people who would be held in the country should be treated humanely as prisoners of war, according to their rights.

Despite the repeated Polish denials,

The Associated Press had published stories on the prison in the northeastern town of Stare Kiejkuty, citing former CIA officials who said it operated from December 2002 until the autumn of 2003.

Human rights groups believe about eight terror suspects were held in Poland, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-proclaimed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Kwasniewski was in power from 1995 to 2005, but like Miller and other left-wing government leaders of the time, he denied the site's existence until now.

In an effort to justify the sudden acknowledgment, Kwasniewski said later in a TV interview that he had been previously bound to keep state secrets. □



Locals and reporters gather outside the compound where Osama bin Laden was killed by U.S. Navy Seals the day before, in Abbottabad, Pakistan. A report released by the Senate Intelligence Committee on Dec. 9, 2014 discredits the often-repeated notion that the torture of detainees was instrumental in locating bin Laden.

(Warrick Page/The New York Times)

where they merely reinforced a long-held view of American brutality rooted in decades of conflict.

The Senate Intelligence Committee report's revelations about the CIA's post-9/11 detention and interrogation program shocked Americans and reopened debate over waterboarding and other practices widely seen as torture. In the region from which nearly all of the targets of such methods hailed, the U.S. has warned of demonstrations or attacks in response to the report's findings — but nothing immediately materialized.

Here are a few reasons.

OLD NEWS

For many in the Middle East, the report merely fleshed out the brutal images of America's War on Terror from a decade earlier — the rows of orange-suited inmates at Guantanamo Bay and the naked detain-

a real public debate about this 10 years after the fact," said Shadi Hamid, a fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy.

"This seems like run-of-the-mill stuff in the sense that this is what people expect of the U.S. They would be surprised if it wasn't the case, and that's a product of years of deep anti-American sentiment," he said.

Abu Ghraib stoked outrage in part because the abuse there was captured in vivid images that were plastered across the covers of every major newspaper. The staid language of the Senate Report is less explosive, and the descriptions of prisoners being waterboarded or confined to stress positions seems less shocking in a region awash in horrific online images of beheadings and bombings in Syria and Iraq.

GLASS TOWERS

Arab governments might

ments have long employed similar brutality against their own political prisoners.

In Syria, where tens of thousands of people have disappeared into prisons where rights groups say torture is endemic, the Senate report made the front page of the ruling Baath party's newspaper but was buried inside other dailies. In Egypt, which has jailed thousands of Islamists and other activists in the wake of last summer's overthrow of President Mohammed Morsi, local press coverage was focused more on a recent closure of Western embassies than the findings of the report.

AFGHAN OUTRAGE

At least one leader, newly-elected Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, spoke out against the "shocking" violations documented in the report. "The Afghan government condemns in the strongest language the

dozens of suspects, many of whom later wound up in the secret prisons described in the Senate report.

Ghani, who faces a virulent Taliban insurgency, has signed security agreements to keep U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan past the official conclusion of the 13-year combat mission on Dec. 31. His political survival depends on convincing his increasingly fractured country that the brutality described in the Senate report is a thing of the past.

MOVING ON

The Bush administration, its War on Terror and the 2003 invasion of Iraq ignited fury across the region and left a legacy of deep mistrust among Arabs and Muslims. But in the years since President George W. Bush left office, the region has been convulsed by Arab Spring protests. □

UN body predicts increase in global economic growth

CARA ANNA

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The global economy will grow by more than 3 percent in 2015 and 2016, the United Nations predicted Wednesday, but that growth will be uneven in some regions.

The U.N.'s annual economic report says growth edged up in 2014 at an estimated 2.6 percent. The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2015 report says business investment will be a major driver in the United States, growth in the world's least developed economies will exceed the global average, and strong household consumption will keep East Asia the world's fastest growing region.

But troubles in the euro-zone, including high unemployment, continue to hold back Western Europe; China's growth becomes more moderate; and Russia's economic activity is flat after it "came to a standstill" amid tensions over Ukraine.

Long-term unemployment remains a problem in many regions recovering from the Great Recession, the report says.

While "unexpected shocks" like the rise of the Islamic State group in the Middle East have hurt global recovery, the report says the effects so far have been limited because the global oil markets have remained stable. "Any actual or feared conflict-related decline in oil supplies (has been) offset by oil production increases, notably in the United States," the report says.

Among developed economies, the report says the United States will see 2.8 percent growth in 2015 and 3.1 percent in 2016. The European Union will edge up 1.7 percent in 2015 and 2 percent in 2016. Japan, hurt by lower private consumption caused by a higher consumption tax, will see just 1.2 percent growth in 2015 and 1.1 percent in 2016. □

House to Vote on \$1.1 Trillion Spending Bill

Continued from Front

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a favorite of progressives, blasted the measure as "a deal negotiated behind closed doors that slips in a provision that would let derivatives traders on Wall Street gamble with taxpayer money and get bailed out by the government when their risky bets threaten to blow up our financial system."

Conservatives were angry, too.

"Why in the world would we want to lock in federal spending through next September that reflects the priorities of the Democratic Senate that voters just thoroughly repudiated last month?" said Rep. Tom McClintock. "Why in the world would we want to so greatly weaken our position to insist on the complete defunding of the president's unconstitutional act (on immigration) in the next session of Congress?"

The compromise spending bill will permit virtually the entire government to operate normally until the fiscal ends next year on Sept. 30, with the exception of the Homeland Security Department.

Funds for that agency will run out on Feb. 27, when Republicans are expected

to try to use the expiration as leverage to force President Barack Obama to roll back a decision suspending the threat of deportation for an estimated 4 million immigrants living in the country illegally.

tives, including significantly weakening new regulations that require banks to set up separate affiliates to deal in the more exotic and riskier forms of complex financial instruments called swaps.

vice budget and a smaller cut for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Democrats blocked the most ambitious attempts by Republicans to thwart Obama administration regulations on greenhouse



ep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., ranking member of the House Financial Services Committee, right, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., a member of the Senate Banking Committee, express their outrage to reporters that a huge, \$1.1 trillion spending bill approved by the Republican-controlled House yesterday contains changes to the 2010 Dodd-Frank law that regulates complex financial instruments known as derivatives, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

The measure adheres to tight budget caps negotiated previously between the White House and Republicans. It also includes several provisions to fulfill Republican policy objec-

Democrats won budget increases for the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Republicans won a big cut to the Internal Revenue Ser-

gas emissions blamed for global warming; Republicans again won concessions exempting livestock producers from regulations on greenhouse gases. immigration action. □

Congress told US lags other nations on drones

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Commercial drone flights are taking off in other countries while the U.S. lags behind in developing safety regulations that would permit unmanned aircraft operations by a wide array of industries, witnesses told a House panel Wednesday.

The Federal Aviation Administration bars all commercial use of drones except for 13 companies that have been granted permits for limited operations. Permits for four of those companies were announced Wednesday, an hour before a hearing on

the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's aviation subcommittee. The four companies plan to use drones for aerial surveillance, construction site monitoring and oil rig flare stack inspections. The agency has received 167 requests for exemptions from commercial operators.

Several European countries have granted commercial permits to more than a 1,000 drone operators for safety inspections of infrastructure, such as railroad tracks, or to support commercial agriculture, Gerald Dillingham of the Government Accountability Of-

fice testified. Australia has issued more than 180 permits to businesses engaged in aerial surveying, photography and other work, but limits the permits to drones weighing less than 5 pounds (2 kilograms). And small, unmanned helicopters have been used to monitor and spray crops in Japan for more than a decade.

Canada has had regulations governing the use of unmanned aircraft since 1996 and, as of September, had issued more than 1,000 permits this year alone, Dillingham said.

Canada recently revised its regulations to grant blan-

ket permission for flights of drones weighing less than 5 pounds (2 kilograms). It also cleared the way for flights by drones weighing between about 5 pounds and 55 pounds (2 to 25 kilograms) as long as operators abide by certain restrictions.

The FAA has been working for years on developing safety rules to give small drones broader access to U.S. skies and agency officials have said they expect to propose regulations before the end of this month. But it could be at least two or three years before regulations become final, Dillingham said. □

CIA fights back after torture report release

BRADLEY KLAPPER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top spies past and present campaigned Wednesday to discredit the Senate's investigation into the CIA's harrowing torture practices after Sept. 11, 2001, battling to define the historical record and deter potential legal action around the world.

The Senate intelligence committee's report doesn't urge prosecution for wrongdoing, and the Justice Department has no interest in reopening a criminal probe. But the threat to former interrogators and their superiors was underlined as a U.N. special investigator demanded those responsible for "systematic crimes" be brought to justice, and human rights groups pushed for the arrest of key CIA and Bush administration figures if they travel overseas.

Current and former CIA officials pushed back, determined to paint the Senate report as a political stunt by Senate Democrats tarnishing a program that saved

American lives. It is a "one-sided study marred by errors of fact and interpretation — essentially a poorly

rectors George Tenet, Porter Goss and Michael Hayden wrote in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece.

false statements he gave in 2007 about the importance of the CIA's brutal treatment of detainees in

ing predated his arrival at the CIA. "They were far too interested in yelling at me," Hayden said in an email to The Associated Press.

The intelligence committee's 500-page release concluded that the CIA inflicted suffering on al-Qaida prisoners beyond its legal authority and that none of the agency's "enhanced interrogations" provided critical, life-saving intelligence. It cited the CIA's own records, documenting in detail how waterboarding and lesser-known techniques such as "rectal feeding" were actually employed.

The CIA is now in the uncomfortable position of defending itself publicly, given its basic mission to protect the country secretly. Its 136-page rebuttal suggests Senate Democrats searched through millions of documents to pull out only the evidence backing up pre-determined conclusions. "That's like doing a crossword puzzle on Tuesday with Wednesday's answer's key," the CIA said in an emailed statement. □



White House press secretary Josh Earnest listens during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014. Earnest answered questions about the Senate CIA torture report.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

done and partisan attack on the agency that has done the most to protect America," former CIA di-

Hayden was singled out by Senate investigators for what they said was a string of misleading or outright

thwarting terrorist attacks. He described the focus on him as "ironic on so many levels" as any wrongdoing

APNewsBreak: US ends control of Afghan prison

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Wednesday released the final three detainees from the Parwan Detention Center in Af-

ghanistan, ending the U.S. operation of any prisons in the country after more than a decade of war, the Pentagon said.

Two of the detainees, including Redha al-Najar,

were transferred into Afghan custody for possible prosecution, while the third wasn't considered a threat and is seeking resettlement in another country.

In 2002, al-Najar was the subject of "enhanced interrogation" techniques by the CIA, according to the newly released Senate Intelligence Committee report. The report said al-Najar, a former bodyguard of Osama bin Laden, was held at the so-called CIA salt pit in Afghanistan where his interrogation included "isolation in total darkness; lowering the quality of his food; keeping him at an uncomfortable (cold) temperature, playing music 24 hours a day and keeping him shackled and hooded." It also said he was left hanging — with his wrists handcuffed to an overhead bar — for 22 hours a day for two days, had to wear a diaper

and had no access to toilet facilities. After a month, the Senate report said, al-Najar was "clearly a broken man" and "on the verge of complete breakdown." The Senate report cited a CIA cable saying al-Najar was willing to do whatever the CIA officer asked. U.S. military participation in his interrogation was forbidden because it was seen as a risk to military personnel. U.S. officials had worked to transfer all remaining detainees before the end of this year, when the U.S. combat mission ends. In a statement Wednesday, Lt. Col. Myles Caggins, a Pentagon spokesman, said that after careful review, the U.S. has transferred the last of the third-country nationals held in U.S. custody in Afghanistan. "The Defense Department no longer operates detention facilities in Afghanistan

nor maintains custody of any detainees," he said, adding that the government of Afghanistan will be responsible for any detention facilities.

The turnover was complicated earlier this year by ongoing U.S. worries that the Afghans were releasing Taliban fighters who would likely return to the battlefield. Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai drew U.S. ire in February when he released 65 detainees, including some directly linked to attacks that killed or wounded U.S. and coalition personnel.

The U.S. had argued for the detainees to face trial in Afghan courts, citing strong evidence against them — from DNA linking them to roadside bombs to explosive residue on their clothing. However, Kabul said there was insufficient proof to hold them. □

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Woman files defamation lawsuit against Bill Cosby

DENISE LAVOIE
AP Legal Affairs Writer
BOSTON (AP) — A woman who has accused Bill Cosby of sexually assaulting her in the 1970s filed a defamation lawsuit Wednesday against the comedian, alleging he "publicly branded" her a liar through statements made by his lawyer and publicist.

Tamara Green said in the lawsuit filed in federal court in Massachusetts that Cosby drugged and assaulted her when she was an aspiring model and singer. Green first spoke publicly about the alleged attack in 2005.

Green said that after she did media interviews, Cosby's lawyer and publicist made statements intended to expose her to public contempt and ridicule.

The attorney named in the lawsuit, Walter M. Phillips Jr., declined to comment. Messages left for the publicist, David Brokaw, weren't immediately returned. Cosby is the lawsuit's only defendant. Cosby, 77, has never been charged in connection with any sexual assault allegations.

In 2005, he settled a civil case filed by Andrea Constand, a former employee at Temple University in Philadelphia. Green was one of a dozen women who were prepared to testify in Constand's lawsuit that Cosby sexually assaulted them.

Through his representatives, Cosby has denied renewed allegations by women alleging decades-old sexual assaults. Joseph Cammarata, a Washington, D.C., attorney

who represents Green in her defamation lawsuit, said the criminal statute of limitations has expired for the women who have accused Cosby.

"This lawsuit provides an opportunity for Ms. Green and Mr. Cosby to litigate the truth or falsity of the comments," Cammarata said. Los Angeles attorney Martin Singer, who has represented Cosby in the recent round of allegations, did not immediately return calls seeking comment on Green's lawsuit.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages. Green's lawsuit says that after she met Cosby through a mutual friend in 1969 or 1970, he asked for her to raise money from investors for a new club he wanted to open.

She said she called Cosby on an unspecified date in the early 1970s to tell him that she was not feeling well. Cosby then invited Green to meet him for lunch at a Los Angeles restaurant, according to the lawsuit.

Green said that during lunch, Cosby offered her some red and grey pills, telling her they were over-the-counter cold medicine. Green took the pills and soon began feeling weak and dizzy, according to the lawsuit.

"Defendant Cosby intentionally drugged Plaintiff Green into this altered state, in order to facilitate his later sexual assault," the lawsuit states.

Green said Cosby drove her home, and once inside her apartment, he undressed both of them, then "digitally penetrated her," the lawsuit states. □

Time Person of the Year: Ebola Fighters

KILEY ARMSTRONG
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Doctors, nurses and others fighting Ebola through "tireless acts of courage and mercy" have been named Time's 2014 Person of the Year, the magazine announced Wednesday.

The runners-up included Ferguson, Missouri, protesters; Russian President Vladimir Putin; Kurdish Regional Government President Massoud Barzani; and Jack Ma, the China-based founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba.

Time's editor, Nancy Gibbs, praised "the people in the field, the special forces of Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the Christian medical-relief workers of Samaritan's Purse and many others from all over the world" who "fought side by side with local doctors and nurses, ambulance drivers and burial teams."

Gibbs noted that the disease has struck doctors and nurses.

"The rest of the world can sleep at night because a group of men and women are willing to stand and fight," she wrote.

Antoine Petibon, head of international programs for the French Red Cross, which has been active in Guinea's anti-Ebola efforts, called it "great recognition for all these people who have been toiling in the shadows."

The disease has taken its toll in myriad ways.

In September, a team trying to inform villagers about Ebola in the forests of southern Guinea was attacked by a mob. The bodies of eight people — two local administrators, two medical officers, a preacher and three journalists, were found stuffed

in a latrine.

Less than a month after arriving in Guinea, Cuban Dr. Jorge Juan Guerra Rodriguez died of malaria.

Henry Gray, MSF operations coordinator for the Ebola response in Guinea and Liberia, said the spotlight should be on the patients and the thousands of people in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Mali "who are doing their best to deal with this horrendous outbreak."

Gray, speaking by phone from Conakry, the Guinea capital, said, "We are happy for this recognition but will be even happier when the last Ebola treatment center is closed and the crisis is declared over."

Birte Hald, head of emergency operations for the

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said "front-line fighters" deserve recognition.

"People like myself, we are working hard, but we are not at risk," Hald said from Nairobi.

"People doing the safe and dignified burials, the contact tracing and the transport of the sick, working in the treatment centers — these are the people who deserve our praise and respect."

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama and his administration "could not be prouder of the brave men and women who have committed themselves to this effort in a foreign land. ... □



This image provided by Time Magazine, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014, announces the Ebola fighters as its Person of the Year for 2014. The title, according to the magazine, goes to an individual or group who has had the biggest impact on the news over the course of the previous year. The issue carries five covers, and here, shows Dr. Jerry Brown, the Liberian surgeon who turned his hospital's chapel into the country's first Ebola treatment center. (AP Photo/Time Magazine)

Lawmakers wary of GMO food labels

MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The food industry is likely to find a more receptive U.S. Congress come January in its fight against mandatory labeling of genetically modified foods.

Republicans and Democrats on a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee questioned Wednesday whether requiring a label on any packaged food including genetically modified organisms — or foods grown from seeds engineered in labs — would be misleading to consumers since there is no evidence that such foods are unsafe. The food industry has made a

of the Senate.

Democrats on the panel stopped short of endorsing Pompeo's bill, but many appeared concerned about the unintended effects of requiring a GMO labeling on food packages.

Rep. Henry Waxman, the top Democrat on the Energy and Commerce Committee, said he is concerned that labeling could be "inherently misleading." Rep. G.K. Butterfield, a Democrat who represents a heavily agricultural district, said he is worried the costs of labeling would be passed on to consumers. Butterfield has co-sponsored the voluntary labeling bill with Pompeo.

having a federal standard.

Vermont became the first state to require the labels this year, passing a law in May that will take effect mid-2016 if it survives legal challenges. Maine and Connecticut passed laws before Vermont, but those measures don't take effect unless neighboring states follow suit. Ballot initiatives that would have required labeling were narrowly defeated in California and Washington in the past two years, and an Oregon initiative on the ballot this year is in the midst of a recount. Currently, the FDA doesn't require labeling for genetically modified foods. Michael Landa, head of the FDA's Center



A grocery store employee wipes down a soup bar with a display informing customers of organic, GMO-free oils in Boulder, Colo. House lawmakers expressed skepticism about mandatory labeling of genetically modified foods Wednesday as several states have moved to require such labels. Republicans and Democrats on a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee questioned whether requiring a label on any packaged food including genetically modified organisms — or foods grown from seeds engineered in labs — would be misleading to consumers since there is no evidence that such foods are unsafe. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

similar argument.

Congress has shown increasing interest in getting involved in the GMO labeling debate as the food industry has faced a potential patchwork of state laws requiring it. Republicans have pushed legislation introduced by Rep. Mike Pompeo, a Republican, that would reaffirm that such food labels are voluntary, overriding any state laws that require them. The food industry has backed that bill, and is likely to find a more receptive Congress come January when Republicans take control

Rep. Frank Pallone, the top Democrat on the health subcommittee that held the hearing, said he was weighing both sides of the issue.

"If the labeling could result in higher food costs, then maybe that's not a risk we want to take," he said.

Consumer advocates pushing for the labeling say shoppers have a right to know what is in their food, arguing not enough is known about the effects of the technology. They have pushed several state efforts to require labeling, with the eventual goal of

for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, testified that the agency believes that engineered foods on the market now are safe. The agency has a safety review process for GMO crops but it isn't required. Landa said the agency doesn't require labeling because it has so far found no basis to conclude that foods that are genetically modified "differ from other foods in any meaningful or uniform way or pose any different or greater safety concern than foods developed by traditional plant breeding." □

Lawyer: American arrested in Israel denies any charges

TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON/JERUSALEM (AP) — An Illinois man charged in Israel with plotting to blow up Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem calls the allegations "nonsense," his lawyer said Wednesday.

Israeli authorities indicted Everett Adam Livvix, 30, who they said once posed as an ex-U.S. Navy SEAL, on weapons charges stemming from the alleged plot. Israeli police said Livvix also turned down an offer from a Palestinian to assassinate U.S. President Barack Obama during a visit to the Holy Land in 2013.

Livvix went by Adam in Israel and back home in Robinson, Illinois, where he had an arrest record for alleged offenses including marijuana possession and theft. He faced charges in Crawford County, Illinois, for stealing a farm brush mower but failed to show up in court in March 2013, Sheriff Bill Rutan said.

Livvix's lawyer in Israel, Gal Wolf, said his client was held for eight days without access to a lawyer following his arrest last month, although U.S. Embassy officials did see him. Wolf said Livvix underwent "extended interrogations" by Israeli security services and that he is being kept separate from other prisoners.

"He categorically denies the charges in the indictment," Wolf said. "He says it is nonsense."

Wolf said he last saw Livvix on Monday and described his mood as "down." He said that Livvix may have psychological issues that need assessing and could come into play during his trial. Israel's Justice Ministry said Livvix underwent a psychiatric evaluation Tuesday, but Wolf said results had not yet been released.

Wolf said Livvix was living with a fiancée when he was arrested. He did not identify the woman but said she was also an American citizen. He did not know if they arrived to Israel together or met here. Israel indicted Livvix on



In this 2013 photo provided by the Crawford County, Ill., Sheriff's Office is Everett Adam Livvix of Robinson, Illinois. Livvix, 30, has been charged with possessing weapons that Israeli police say he planned to use to blow up holy sites in Jerusalem. (AP Photo/CCS)

Monday on charges of illegal weapon possession and overstaying his visa by more than a year. Operating in cooperation with Israel's Shin Bet security service, police went to arrest Livvix last month at his seventh-floor apartment, the ministry said, but he initially tried to escape by leaping down to a patio on the floor below.

Livvix, who said he was a former Navy SEAL, was asked by an unnamed Palestinian to assassinate Obama with a sniper rifle during the president's March 2013 visit to the region, Israeli police said. Livvix declined, but the FBI ended up involved in the case investigating his actions, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said.

Later that year, Livvix entered Israel, the Justice Ministry said, and told Israeli friends he had strong anti-Arab sentiments. The ministry said Livvix later cooperated with his roommate, a serving soldier in the Israeli military, to obtain 1.4 kilograms (3 pounds) of explosive material to blow up the unidentified Jerusalem holy sites. The ministry said police discovered the plot in October.

An Israeli court is expected to decide Dec. 21 whether to detain Livvix until court proceedings are over.

Indiana-based bounty hunter Willie Bryant told The Associated Press he had been tracking Livvix through various cities in Israel, but was unable to arrest him on a failure-to-appear charge out of Indiana as he had no authority abroad. □

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US Financial Front: Employers will have to raise wages - they just don't know it yet

NEIL IRWIN

© 2014 New York Times

American employers are the equivalent of a shopkeeper who has a "Help Wanted" sign permanently on display in his window, but never actually hires anybody. None of the applicants who come in offer the perfect mix of skills, experience and willingness to accept low pay that the shopkeeper is looking for. That's one way of reading some key measures of the labor market, updated Tuesday, that shed light on what afflicts the economy and where things will go from here.

According to the latest Labor Department data, employers had 4.8 million positions they were looking to fill in October. That's up 25 percent in the last year and 125 percent since the start of the economic expansion in mid-2009.

But for all these vacancies, actual hiring isn't in a similar boom. The number of people hired is up only 12 percent in the last year and 33 percent over the five-year expansion.

Or to look at the same numbers a little differently, the ratio of job openings to actual hiring has been higher in the last few months than it has been at any other time in the history of the data (though that only goes back to 2001). You would expect for that ratio to skyrocket most when the economy and labor market are strong. Employers might have a harder time finding workers at a time of low joblessness, and thus have more unfilled openings. Yet that ratio is higher now than it was in 2006, the strongest year of the last expansion, when the unemployment rate averaged 4.6 percent.

It is currently 5.8 percent. On the surface, it doesn't make any sense. The jobless rate doesn't even count millions of people who have left the labor force

opening should have no problem hiring. If anything, the ratio of openings to hiring should be lower than it was in the mid-2000s, not higher.

employers got spoiled. When unemployment was near 10 percent, talented workers were lined up outside their door. The workers they did have were ter-

could fill the job almost instantly. That's why the ratio of job openings to hires fell so low in 2009.

As the economy has gotten better the last five years, employers have had more and more job openings, but have been sorely reluctant to accept that it's not 2009 anymore in terms of what workers they can hire and at what wage.

Yes, unemployment is still elevated, but workers aren't in nearly as desperate a position as they were then. So to get the kind of talented people they want, employers are going to have to pay more (or offer better benefits or working conditions) than they would have not that long ago. To see what that looks like on a micro level, I wrote this summer about the trucking industry: Companies are taking a financial hit because they don't have enough truck drivers - an event that comes after a decade in which truckers' inflation-adjusted wages have actually fallen slightly. □



Demonstrators march toward the Park Avenue home of Alice Walton, a Walmart heir, to protest low wages and poor conditions in the service economy, in New York, in October, 2014. The disconnect between job openings and actual hires points to the likelihood that employers are about to begin offering better wages than they did during the recession.

(Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)

entirely in recent years and might be coaxed back in. So any employer with a job

Here's a theory to try to make sense of the disconnect: During the recession,

rified of losing their jobs. If you put out word that you had an opening, you

2 major insider trading convictions overturned

BEN PROTESS

MATTHEW GOLDSTEIN

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NEW YORK - A federal appeals court Wednesday overturned two of the government's signature insider trading convictions, a stunning blow to prosecutors and their campaign to root out illegal activity on Wall Street.

In a 28-page decision that could rewrite the course of insider trading law, sharply curtailing its boundaries, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in Manhattan tossed out the case against two former hedge fund traders, Todd New-

man and Anthony Chiasson. Citing the trial judge's "erroneous" instruction to jurors, the court not only overturned the convictions but threw out the cases altogether.

"We conclude that the jury instructions were erroneous and that there was insufficient evidence to support the convictions," Judge Barrington D. Parker wrote on behalf of a three-judge panel that also included Judge Ralph K. Winter and Judge Peter W. Hall.

The unanimous decision - the first higher court rebuke of an insider trading case

filed by Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan - could portend a broader unraveling of Bharara's insider trading crackdown. It will also offer a blueprint for traders to defend future insider trading cases, a development that is likely to unnerve prosecutors while delighting the defense bar.

For now, the decision imperils at least one other of Bharara's milestone insider trading convictions: Michael Steinberg, of SAC Capital Advisors, the once-giant hedge fund that Bharara indicted last year. The judge who pre-

sided over Steinberg's trial, Richard J. Sullivan, also handled the trial of Chiasson and Newman.

In a statement, lawyers for Chiasson and Newman applauded the decision and its wider consequences. "Today's decision is a resounding victory for the rule of law and for Anthony Chiasson personally," said Gregory Morvillo, who represented Chiasson along with Andrea Shapiro and Mark F. Pomerantz. "He is deeply gratified that the decision issued today unequivocally re-establishes his innocence under the law." □

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Passengers, airlines can't afford late 1st flight

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — For years, Southwest was the most punctual of big U.S. airlines, so its tumble toward the bottom of government rankings for on-time arrivals was stunning.

Southwest officials needed to fix an ill-fated decision to squeeze more flights into the schedule. This summer, they backed off by allowing more time between flights. And they told employees that the first flight of the day on every route had to leave on time.

"If you're late out of the driveway in the morning, you're probably going to be a little bit late to work," says Steve Hozdulick, Southwest's senior director of operational performance. "You're going to hit the two traffic lights that you never hit."

In the airline world, delays build as the day wears on. This summer, for example, airlines were on-time around 85 percent or better until midmorning. By midafternoon, the rate dropped into the low 70s, then plunged into the 60s by dinner time.

Delays are costly for airlines and their passengers. A 2010 study commissioned by the Federal Aviation Administration estimated that flight delays cost the airline industry \$8 billion a year, much of it due to increased spending on crews, fuel and maintenance. Delays cost passengers even more — nearly \$17 billion.

In the first nine months of the year, more than 1 million U.S. airline flights arrived late — about one in five. Tardiness creates other

problems including missed connections, lost bags and short tempers among frustrated travelers.

On a freezing morning recently at Dallas Love Field, Southwest supervisors

they're supposed to close the aircraft door five minutes before scheduled departure.

And then, a snag. A broken communications radio. A replacement was ordered

As recently as 2009, Southwest led the big airlines in on-time arrivals, which the government defines as within 14 minutes of schedule. Southwest tumbled to last among the largest five

"The key is to not let yourself fall behind," Holtz says. "Keep this thing churning on time for as long as possible because there's a deteriorating effect on your entire system once it starts to go."

Many travelers assume that airlines have plenty of spare planes. But Southwest uses about 600 planes on an average day and keeps just a dozen or so in reserve at big airports.

Airlines can boost their on-time grade by loosening or padding the schedule — allowing more time between takeoff and arrival. Southwest has done that, especially at bigger airports.

But padding has drawbacks. Planes don't fly as much, so they make less money. It drives up labor costs because crews are paid based on scheduled flight times. And it creates the inverse problem — flights that arrive so early that there's no gate available, forcing passengers to stay on the plane after they land. Travelers may sympathize with airlines when the delay is caused by bad weather. They are less forgiving when they think the airline could have done better. Paul Jarley, dean of the business school at the University of Central Florida, said his plane sat at the gate in San Diego because of bad weather in Las Vegas. What bothered him, however, was a second delay to replace a bad tire on the landing gear.

"The obvious question was, if the plane was sitting there for 90 minutes, why didn't anybody see the tire?" Jarley said. □



Southwest Airlines ramp supervisor Steve Belch, left, confers with ground crewman Dillard Blue after a mechanical glitch developed on the early morning originator flight waiting for departure from the gate behind them, at Love Field in Dallas. Throughout the airline industry, the first flight of the day sets the tone for keeping the system's flights running on-time.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

showed up at 4 a.m., two hours before the first flights. They'll assign two or more bag handlers to each flight. The last bag should be on the plane and the bin doors closed five minutes before scheduled departure, says Dave Obeso, a Southwest ramp supervisor.

The pilots for Flight 454 to Phoenix inspected their Boeing 737 in the dark. Workers called "ops agents" calculated load weight and balance and completed paperwork. A fueler gassed up the jet. Inside the terminal, agents at Gate 12 started boarding the 136 passengers —

and installed, a tug pushed the plane back from the gate, and the pilots taxied into position for takeoff. But the damage had been done.

Flight 454 left 29 minutes behind schedule and arrived in Phoenix 34 minutes late. Southwest's control center relayed word of the delay to Phoenix employees, who "turned" the aircraft faster than normal before its next flight. Still, the plane remained nine to 28 minutes behind schedule for the remaining four flights of the day, according to the tracking service FlightAware.com.

carriers in 2013 and much of 2014 but topped American and United in October, according to figures released Wednesday.

Delta went from worst to first among the biggest airlines in 2011 and has stayed there ever since. Dave Holtz, senior vice president of operations, credited schedule changes, monthly bonuses of up to \$100 per employee for hitting on-time and other goals, and the rote, repeatable task of sticking to a minute-by-minute pre-departure checklist. Delays early in the day are particularly problematic.

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Iran: Fall in oil prices is 'treachery'

ALI AKBAR DAREINI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said Wednesday that the sharp fall in global oil prices is the result of "treachery," in an apparent reference to regional rival Saudi Arabia, which opposed production cuts. Oil prices have plunged by more than 40 percent since June to around \$65 a barrel, placing severe strain on Iran's economy, which is already hobbled by international sanctions imposed over its nuclear program. An OPEC meeting last month failed to reach agreement on production curbs, mainly because of Saudi opposition. Rouhani told a Cabinet meeting Wednesday that the fall in prices is at least partly "politically motivated," the result of a "conspiracy against the interests of the region, the Muslim people and the Muslim world." His comments reflect concerns among Saudi Arabia's rivals that the kingdom is capable of withstanding the revenue losses and is forcing lower oil prices to damage their economies. "Iran and people of the region will not forget such conspiracies, or in other words, treachery against the interests of the Muslim world," he said.

Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shiite Iran are longtime rivals that are fiercely divided over the civil war in Syria, where Iran and Russia support President Bashar Assad while Saudi Arabia backs the mainly Sunni rebels fighting to topple him.

OPEC controls about 40 percent of the world oil market and Saudi Arabia, the largest oil exporter, produces nearly 10 million barrels a day — a third of the OPEC total. □

Dublin:

Thousands protest to denounce Irish water tax

S. POGATCHNIK
Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Tens of thousands of protesters brought Dublin to a standstill Wednesday in a mass protest against Ireland's planned new tax on

Water" rally in the square outside the office of Prime Minister Enda Kenny, where socialist and Irish nationalist politicians appealed from a makeshift stage for the public to boycott their water bills. "No way!

Elsewhere, near the cordoned-off entrance to Ireland's parliament building, protesters chanting "Whose streets? Our streets!" tried to topple security barriers and hurled objects at police lines.

proached, groups of protesters blocked key roads and bridges over the River Liffey, gridlocking traffic for more than three hours and forcing some commuters to abandon their vehicles and walk. An Associated Press reporter saw one protester narrowly avoid being struck by a van, whose driver cursed at him and other protesters as he forced his way past.

Ireland's 3 1/2-year-old government is facing its greatest test since admitting it bungled the creation of a new nationwide utility, Irish Water. The initial deadline for households to register for the new charge came and went Oct. 1 with widespread refusals, and militant crowds have blocked Irish Water workers from installing meters in many working-class neighborhoods. The government, seeking to calm the air of rebellion, proposed smaller, more clearly defined water charges due to come into force Jan. 31. Right2Water protest leaders vowed Wednesday they would fill Dublin with even more protesters on that day. □



Water tax protesters demonstrate close to government buildings in Dublin city centre, Ireland, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014. Thousands of people attended the protest Wednesday in Dublin against the introduction of water tax charges in the Republic of Ireland.

(AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

household water supplies, the last major measure in the country's six-year austerity drive.

Police estimated more than 30,000 people attended the main "Right-

We won't pay!" the crowd chanted. Two of Dublin's most popular folk-rock singers, Damien Dempsey and Glen Hansard, led the crowd in songs of guitar-strumming protest.

One officer was hospitalized with facial injuries before police reinforcements donning full riot gear spurred the crowd to back off.

As evening rush hour ap-

Russian official in Syria talks peace with Assad

ALBERT AJI
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — A senior Russian official met President Bashar Assad on Wednesday, saying he discussed Moscow's efforts to bring all sides in Syria's civil war to the negotiating table and warning that terrorism poses a threat to everyone.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov arrived in the Syrian capital for a two-day visit, the last leg of a regional tour that has taken him to Turkey for

meetings with Syrian opposition leaders as well as Lebanon for talks with senior government officials and Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah.

Bogdanov has said Russia is trying to arrange a meeting between Syria's warring sides without preconditions.

The two discussed how a political solution could be reached "as soon as possible because people are getting killed every day," he told reporters after meeting with Assad.

Asked whether Russia was cooperating with the United States in its efforts to convene talks, Bogdanov said: "If there is a desire among Syrians for the meeting in Moscow, then we will discuss this issue with the Americans."

He added that the priority is fighting terrorism.

"This terrorism poses a threat to everyone," he said.

Russia is Assad's chief political ally in the international arena, and it has protected his government by issu-

ing repeated vetoes at the U.N. Security Council. Russian officials have echoed Assad's claim from the beginning of the Syrian conflict: that he is fighting "terrorists" and extremists, not an uprising by people demanding change.

Bogdanov said he met in Turkey with Hadi Bahra, the head of Syria's Western-backed Syrian opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, and asked him to take part in future talks in Moscow. He did not elaborate. □

South Africa Judge: Pistorius verdict can be appealed

ALAN COWELL

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LONDON - South African prosecutors won the right Wednesday to appeal the acquittal on murder charges of Oscar Pistorius, the double-amputee track star convicted of a lesser offense in the killing of his girlfriend in 2013. The reversal came in a complex ruling by Judge Thokozile Matilda Masipa who presided over

Pistorius' trial and, in September, found him guilty of culpable homicide, equivalent to manslaughter. She later sentenced him to a five-year prison term.

The prosecution called the sentence "shockingly inappropriate" to the crime, since Pistorius could be released on house arrest after 10 months in the hospital wing of a prison in Pretoria, the South African capital.

While Masipa on Wednesday rejected an appeal against the sentence, her ruling meant that prosecutors may now ask the highest appellate court to consider a murder charge that could carry a minimum 15-year term. The judge's ruling Wednesday hinged on a distinction in South African law between culpable homicide - technically a crime of negligence - and

a form of murder when a defendant is accused of knowing that his or her actions may cause death.

Pistorius, 28, has acknowledged killing his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, 29, in the early hours of Feb. 14 last year, when he fired four rounds from a handgun through a locked bathroom door. Throughout his trial, he repeatedly denied knowing that she was on

the other side of the door and said that he fired in the belief that an intruder had entered his home.

Starting his appeal against both the conviction and the sentence Tuesday, the state prosecutor, Gerrie Nel, argued that Pistorius must have understood the likely outcome of opening fire and that he had therefore committed a form of murder.

Armenia wins backing to join trade bloc led by Putin

DAVID M. HERSZENHORN

© 2014 New York Times

MOSCOW - Russia's lower house of parliament voted unanimously Wednesday to approve a treaty allowing Armenia to join a trade bloc of former Soviet states that President Vladimir Putin has championed as an alternative to the European Union.

The bloc, now called the Eurasian Economic Union, already includes Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, with Armenia and Kyrgyzstan on the path to membership. Putin envisions it as a counterweight to the European Union and a better guarantor of the region's economic interests.

Tensions have emerged in recent months, however, as Russia has come under economic pressure as a result of sanctions imposed by the West over the Kremlin's intervention in Ukraine. Russia's mounting economic worries, including a steep decline in the ruble and a simultaneous slide in global oil prices, have weighed on its closest trading partners, particularly Belarus.

Russian authorities late last month banned the transit of Western products from Belarus through Russia to

ments were being used to violate Russia's retaliatory sanctions against Europe, which prohibit the import of

up inspections in a bid to persuade Russia to ease the restrictions. But the Belarusian president, Alexan-

tions that will break existing agreements with Western suppliers.

"We cannot ban transit of goods to other countries through the Belarusian territory; this is a violation of all the norms of international law," he said at a recent government meeting. "If Russia does not want any goods to go through it by transit to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, China, Mongolia, Turkey, then it should ban this transit."

In remarks before the vote in the State Duma, Russia's lower chamber of parliament, the speaker, Sergei Naryshkin, compared the economic benefits of the Eurasian Economic Union with what he described as the toxic results of Ukraine's closer ties with Europe.

"In one case, that which we are discussing with you today, Eurasian integration is proceeding with utmost mutual respect, understanding of the economic interests and national traditions of partners," Naryshkin said, according to Russian news services. "



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks to the media at Moscow's Vnukovo airport. Russia's lower house of parliament voted unanimously Wednesday to approve a treaty allowing Armenia to join a trade bloc of former Soviet states that President Vladimir Putin has championed as an alternative to the European Union.

(AP Photo/Vasily Maximov, Pool)

other countries, including Kazakhstan, partly out of concern that such ship-

most European agricultural products.

Belarus has since stepped

der G. Lukashenko, has declared publicly that Belarus would not impose restric-

Palestinian official dies during protest in West Bank

ISABEL KERSHNER

SAID GHAZALI

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JERUSALEM - A prominent Palestinian official with the Fatah faction died Wednesday after inhaling tear gas and being shoved and struck in the chest by a member of the Israeli security forces during a demonstration in a West Bank village, witnesses said.

The Israeli military said it was

reviewing the circumstances leading up to the death of the official, Ziad Abu Ein, 55, who held the rank of minister in the Palestinian Authority although he was not formally a member of the Cabinet. The event threatened to grow into a crisis between Israel and the Western-backed Palestinian Authority amid calls for a halt in security coordination between the two

sides from some Palestinian Authority officials, Hamas and other opponents of the policy, which is unpopular with many Palestinians. In the absence of peace talks, security coordination has been the foundation of relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. In an apparent effort to calm the atmosphere, Israeli and Palestinian officials agreed that an Israeli

pathologist and a delegation of pathologists from Jordan would examine the circumstances of Abu Ein's death, the Israeli military said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel sent a message to the Palestinian Authority pledging to investigate the event, which was captured on video, and calling for calm. A correspondent for Sky News tweeted that Israeli

medics tried to assist Abu Ein after he fell unconscious but that Palestinians rushed him to a vehicle instead. He was first taken to a clinic in Turmus Aya and then to the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah. Dr. Sameer Saliba said that Abu Ein was dead by the time he arrived there in an ambulance. He could not immediately specify the cause of death.

Nut rage is just the latest bump for Korean Airlines



Cho Hyun-ah, Korean Air Lines' head of cabin service and the oldest child of Korean Air Chairman Cho Yang-ho, answers reporters' question during a news conference in Incheon, west of Seoul, South Korea.

(AP Photo/Yonhap)

YOUKYUNG LEE
AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

When South Koreans heard that a Korean Air Lines executive delayed a flight because she was angry at being served macadamia nuts in a bag there was outrage but no surprise.

For many it was only the latest example of the high and mighty behavior they'd come to expect from the families who make up Korea's dynastic business elite and dominate the economy.

In the headline hogging incident now dubbed "nut rage," Cho Hyun-ah, the airline's head of cabin service and daughter of its chairman, ordered a senior crew member off the plane, forcing it to return to the gate at John F. Kennedy airport in New York City. Cho had quarreled with flight attendants in first class after one of them offered her bagged nuts instead of nuts served on a plate. Amid the storm of criticism, Cho resigned Tuesday as head of cabin service but remained an executive at the airline. That sparked another furor and Cho on Wednesday submitted a letter of resignation quitting all her roles.

Korean Air had defended her actions as a "natural" attempt to improve customer service. Yet for a public that has lost patience with impunity and

double standards, it was an ugly display of entitlement. The local media labeled her "princess."

The Cho family has a history of making headlines in South Korea.

Cho, 40, who is also known as Heather Cho, is married to a prominent plastic surgeon who performed his nips and tucks in Gangnam, a tony district of Seoul famous for its plastic surgery clinics and hip shops.

In 2013, she gave birth to twin boys in Hawaii, entitling them to U.S. citizenship. Korean Air had sent Cho to work in the U.S. two months before her expected delivery date. But within South Korea there was anger that U.S. citizenship meant her sons would be able to avoid South Korea's two years of compulsory military service for able-bodied males.

Cho's brother, Won-tae, 38, was investigated by police in 2005 for pushing an elderly woman who confronted him about his reckless driving, the Yonhap news agency reported.

The family patriarch, Cho Yang-ho, 65, was convicted of tax evasion in 2000, facing charges with his father and brother. The Chos were charged with receiving millions in rebates when they purchased airplanes from Boeing and Airbus and evading taxes on the money.

The nut rage incident, however, struck a particular chord as it comes at a time when growing inequality and safety issues are on the minds of South Koreans. There are also growing calls to better treat service industry workers.

On an online forum used by Korean Air pilots, there was an outpouring of complaints about the behavior of the Cho family in their running of the airline.

In South Korea, there was once respect for the families that founded the industrial conglomerates that helped modernize the country and make it wealthy. □

Hong Kong: Protest camps count down last hours

KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong student protest leaders vowed Wednesday to stay until the last minute and peacefully resist a police operation to clear them off a highway where they've been camped out for 2 1/2 months.

Thousands of protesters

at the site before midnight, when police were rumored to be planning to seal off the area. Police, however, denied there was any such plan and said they would move in at 9 a.m. Thursday. "We will still resist till the last moment," said Alex Chow, secretary general of the Hong Kong Federation of Students. He said the rea-

leave the road will be arrested, police said.

While some protesters had already packed up their belongings on Wednesday, many promised it would not be the end of the pro-democracy movement, using large yellow banners, chalk scrawled on asphalt or balloon letters stuck on a wall to declare "We'll be



Protesters pose for photographs on a barricade at the occupied area outside government headquarters in Hong Kong Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014. Hong Kong's dwindling number of pro-democracy protesters vowed Wednesday to stay until the last minute before authorities clear them off a highway where they've been camped out for more than two months.

(AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

and supporters streamed into the site on the last night of what's come to be known as the "Umbrella Movement," named for the pro-democracy protesters' preferred method of deflecting police pepper spray.

Many huddled in the hundreds of tents that remained on the normally busy thoroughfare outside of the specially administered Chinese city's government headquarters, less than a day before court workers assisted by police were scheduled to sweep them out. Others took photos, listened to speeches and lined up for souvenir leather bracelets and other mementos handmade on the spot by volunteers.

Two student groups that have played key roles in organizing the protests called for supporters to join them

son for staying until the end is "not simply for us be arrested, but to demonstrate our spirit" of civil disobedience.

Joshua Wong, the 18-year-old head of the Scholarism group and the pro-democracy movement's most prominent leader, urged supporters to stick to their nonviolent principles and not obstruct court workers or police.

"If the government wants to use police to clear the site, don't forget, the clearance can't resolve political conflicts, it can't resolve society's dilemma," he said.

Authorities will start by removing barricades and other obstructions from three sections of road covered by a court order. Then they will clear other nearby blocked roads to reopen the entire area to traffic. Anyone who refuses to

back."

The sprawling encampment in Hong Kong's Admiralty neighborhood, on the edge of the financial district, has become the symbolic nucleus of the protest movement, now in its 74th day. On Sept. 28, thousands of protesters angry over the prolonged detention of key student leaders swarmed onto the road to confront police, who fired dozens of tear gas rounds in a bid to disperse them. But that only stoked further public anger and kick-started the pro-democracy movement, which came to include two other protest sites in Hong Kong.

The protesters reject Beijing's restrictions on the first election for the city's top leader, scheduled for 2017, but have failed to win any concessions from Hong Kong's government. □

With compromises; A global accord to fight climate change is in sight

CORAL DAVENPORT

© 2014 New York Times

LIMA, Peru - Diplomats from 196 countries are closing in on the framework of a potentially historic deal that would for the first time commit every nation in the world to cutting its planet-warming fossil fuel emissions - but would still not be enough to stop the early effects of global warming. The draft, now circulat-

sions - with governments choosing their own targets, guided by their domestic politics, rather than by the amounts that scientists say are necessary.

The idea is to reach a global deal to be signed by world leaders in Paris next year, incorporating 196 separate emissions pledges.

"It's a breakthrough, because it gives meaning to the idea that every country

drought, food shortages and more violent storms.

The Lima draft represents the input of all the negotiating countries, though there are still several major hurdles to work out. But even then, experts say, at best the new deal might be enough only to curb global warming by about half as much as scientists say is necessary.

Until recently, the United

Barack Obama and President Xi Jinping of China announced plans to reduce emissions, helping inject new life into the global climate talks.

Negotiators here call the joint announcement between China and the U.S. the catalyst for the new draft, which, if approved at the climate summit meeting this week, would set the stage for a final deal to be



Posters left by participants of a march in "Defense of Mother Earth" sit on the floor, in Lima, Peru, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014. Thousands marched in support of Mother Earth as they chanted slogans against illegal mining, and logging operations, as well as oil drilling.

(AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

ing among negotiators at a global climate summit meeting here, represents a fundamental breakthrough in the impasse that has plagued the United Nations for two decades as it has tried to forge a new treaty to counter global warming. But the key to the political success of the draft - and its main shortcoming, negotiators concede - is that it does not bind nations to a single, global benchmark for emissions reductions. Instead, the draft puts forward lower, more achievable, policy goals. Under the terms of the draft, every country will publicly commit to enacting its own plans to reduce emis-

will make cuts," said Yvo de Boer, the former executive secretary of the U.N. Convention on Climate Change.

"But the great hopes for the process are also gone," he added. "Many people are resigned," he said, to the likelihood that even a historic new deal would not reduce greenhouse gas levels enough to keep the planet's atmospheric temperature from rising 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

That is the point at which, scientists say, it will become impossible to avoid the dangerous and costly early effects of climate change - such as melting glaciers, rising sea levels, extreme

States and China, the world's two largest greenhouse gas polluters, have been at the center of the impasse over a climate deal. Until this year, the U.S. had never arrived at the U.N.'s annual climate negotiations with a domestic policy to cut its own carbon emissions. Instead, it merely demanded that other nations cut their use of coal and gasoline, while promising that it would do so in the future.

China, meanwhile, was the lead voice among nations demanding that developing economies should not be required to commit to any cuts.

But in November, President

signed by world leaders next year in Paris.

In the U.N.'s first effort to enact a climate change treaty, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the legally binding language of the agreement prescribed that the world's largest economies make ambitious, specific emissions cuts - but it exempted developing nations. The U.S. Senate refused to ratify the treaty, effectively leaving it a failure. The Lima draft does not include Kyoto-style, top-down mandates that countries cut emissions by specific levels. Instead, it includes provisions requiring that all nations, rich and poor, commit to policies to mitigate their emissions.

LATIN BRIEFS

Uruguay kids use more pot than tobacco

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay

(AP) — Uruguayan high school students are smoking more marijuana than tobacco. A nationwide survey on drug consumption released Wednesday by the National Drugs Board says 17 percent of high schoolers said they smoked pot in the past year versus 9 percent for tobacco. It's the first time since the survey began in 2003 that marijuana consumption is higher than tobacco use among high school students. The survey of 11,248 people in 168 schools had a margin of error of plus or minus 0.9 percentage points. Uruguay in 2013 became the first nation to approve a state-overseen marijuana market. Once registered and licensed, any Uruguayan adult will be allowed to grow plants at home or join a pot-growing club. Consumers soon will also be able to buy marijuana cigarettes from pharmacies.

Colombia talks resume after general freed

HAVANA (AP) — Peace

talks between Colombian rebels and government officials have resumed. The talks in Havana were suspended for several weeks after members of Colombia's main rebel group captured an army general and two others. Colombia's head of delegation at the talks Humberto de la Calle says his government made no concessions to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia to restart talks in the Cuban capital on Wednesday. President Juan Manuel Santos had suspended the talks after the rebel group captured Gen. Ruben Dario Alzate and two others in a conflictive part of western Colombia on Nov. 16. Alzate was the first general to be taken by the rebel group in a half-century of fighting. The rebels later freed the trio.



Its Last Phase of Development:

Gold Coast Introduces the Boca Druf & Boca Grandi Condos

ORANJESTAD - Gold Coast, Aruba's largest and fastest growing residential community, is also the island's newest master-planned residential community. While the majority of homes are occupied by happy owners, a great number of owned townhouses and villas are also renting to transient guests making Gold Coast Villas Aruba a unique vacation destination, open for leisure and ready for business.

The Gold Coast rental program has become exceedingly popular in recent years because it provides great value for families or couples traveling together, and looking for the extra space that only a residence provides.

Additionally, the savings are substantial when one compares the rental price of a Gold Coast residence to any of Aruba's fine 4 star resorts' accommodations. The growth in demand for vacation rentals prompted the construction and the sale of Gold Coast's final phase, the Boca Druf & Boca Grandi condos.

Recently, that last phase of development was revealed and it includes the stylish additional condo units finalized.

The units, 36 in total, with 2 and 3 bedroom options, are located in the Mangroves V6 section, on the south side of the resi-



dence. The spacious one story condos are tastefully appointed and equipped with the latest energy saving, state-of-the-art appliances.

The 2 bedroom Boca Druf Condos, measure 115m2, and are available on both the ground and the upper floors. The upper floor condos feature 2 balconies and a private rooftop terrace overlooking the beautiful outdoors. Owners may enjoy the private roof top terrace designed to comfortably entertain guests or just relax. The property offers more than 50 parking spaces and the pairing of beautiful landscaping with ample parking creates a highly functional yet truly enjoy-



able recreational living environment.

For real estate buyers seeking a more spacious footprint, the 3 bedroom Boca Grandi condo, measures 129m2, and is just as beautiful as its 2 bedroom Boca Druf sister. The condos are available on both the ground and upper floor. The ground floor condos enjoy a spacious patio while the upper floor condos feature 2 balconies and a private rooftop terrace overlooking the beautiful outdoors.

The private roof top terrace was designed to comfortably entertain guests or just relax.

The property offers more than 50 parking spaces, and the pairing of beautiful landscaping with ample parking creates a highly functional yet truly enjoyable recreational living environment.

When all complete, Gold Coast will boast over 260 residences, in 2 and 3 bedroom townhouses, single level 3 bedroom condos,

and 3 and 4 bedroom villa homes, set among 26 acres of lush landscaping, picturesque plazas, and fountains, within the walls of a fully secure community.

The design of Gold Coast Villas Aruba was conceived by the dynamic Croes family members, whose original vision now results in beauty, quality, style, security, and convenience, properly financed and well constructed, in strict adherence to budgets and timetables. □



Real Island Life: Notes From A Day On Aruba!

PALM BEACH - First of all, I like to welcome you to my island in the sun. Aruba's weather is always so predictable (hot and windy) and that might be the main reason you decided to come visit us. Of course besides the sun there is much more like: beaches, restaurants, shopping, gambling, activities and more. Talking about all those fun things to do here, if you live on the island full time, and work every day, you might forget that we truly live in a paradise. Of course on your off day you might go swimming or drive around but it is after a few more days at home when you start realizing how beautiful our island really is. So I took some time to "smell the ocean breeze"..... I truly think that all locals should do so, once in a



caps, business cards, license plates and of course weird kind of souvenirs. Go check it out yourself.... Up to Baby Beach and Rogers beach. These are the places locals go. This is where we teach our kids to swim. Calm and shallow waters, lots of space to lie out and catch some sun. If you pick a spot close to the Snack Container where they sell burger and refreshments you can enjoy 24-7 "golden oldies". Music you grew up with..... After a few hours of "vegging" on the beach staring at the turquoise ocean and listening to the birds that fly by and walk around it is time to get some food.

Zeeroovers in Savaneta is the place to go. Simple, clean and oh so good! The freshest fish on the island, brought in directly by our local fisherman. You order by the piece and or pound and as little or as much as you want. The price for fish and chips is so good that you for sure would ask: "is that all"? No fancy dinner ware, just plain easy simple plastic but I promise you that you will be licking your fingers while enjoying a few drinks and the best sunset on the island, island style..... You see now that a day in Aruba can fly by as long as you have fun enjoy every moment of it. Yes, you are in PARADISE!!!

while, to appreciate where we live and what we have. □ Enjoy breakfast outside in your patio or yard. Breathe in and out.... Let it sink in a little. No rush and no hurry. Take time to enjoy your fresh squeezed lemon juice from your backyard trees with a fish omelet (left over's from last night's incredible catch of the day). Grab an ice cooler, fill it up with anything you like to drink cold, and start driving. Of course you can get in an air-conditioned car, but also nice for the experience are the open-air jeeps. In that case all you need is to protect yourself with sun block because our

sun is really strong-I recommend Aruba Aloe brand! Packed with a towel and the ice cooler I started driving along the coast line. Never realized how many different shades of blue really exist in the ocean. I counted at least 9 different types of blues-just like you see in famous movies like the "blue lagoon". First stop was the famous Charlie's Bar in San Nicolaas Main Street. Generation after generation of Charlie's have been running this cozy place, where you can spend hours looking around and identifying all the things visiting tourists have left behind to personalize the bar, like baseball



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Jim and Susan Aymar honored as Distinguished Visitors



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort Beach Resort, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honor-



ees were Mr. Jim and Mrs. Susan Aymar. Jim and Susan are loyal members of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort, and they love Aruba very much, because of the great extremely friend-

ly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants and the safety of the Island and Aruba is like a second home to them and staying at the Casa Del Mar is like being home. The cer-

tificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Kamla and Mr. Bob Curtis, GM at the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort. □



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EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Michael and Mrs. Judith Helt from Hartford, Wisconsin. Michael and Judith love Aruba for the friendly people, the climate, beaches,



restaurants and they always say that Aruba truly is One Happy Island. The cer-

tificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Author-

ity together with Mrs. Charlene Charles representing La Cabana. □



HOYER SACKED



*Manziel to make
first start vs. Bengals*

Cleveland Browns quarterback Brian Hoyer (6) is sacked by Indianapolis Colts outside linebacker Erik Walden (93) in the first quarter of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, in Cleveland.

Associated Press
Page 18

James rallies Cavs by Raptors, run now 8

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James scored 35 points, including a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 48 seconds remaining, and the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied to beat the Toronto Raptors 105-101 on Tuesday night for their eighth straight victory.

James' jumper from the top

of the key gave Cleveland a 102-99 lead and tied him with Mark Price for the franchise record for 3-pointers at 802. James scored 10 points in the fourth quarter as Cleveland rallied from a 10-point deficit early in the period. Dion Waiters scored 18 points and Kevin Love had 17.

Jonas Valanciunas and

Terrence Ross each scored 18 for Toronto. Kyle Lowry added 16, but only scored two in the fourth quarter as he was hounded defensively by Cavaliers guard Matthew Dellavedova. Toronto shot 14 for 21 in the first quarter and led 63-55 at halftime.

Continued on Page 20



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, left, flips up a shot over Toronto Raptors' Patrick Patterson in the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

Johnny Starter: Manziel era begins with Browns

By **TOM WITHERS**
AP Sports Writer

BEREA, Ohio (AP) -- Count Browns coach Mike Pettine among those curious to see how rookie Johnny Manziel handles his first NFL start.

"I'd be a liar if I said I wasn't excited to see him play," Pettine said Wednesday, a day after promoting the rookie sensation over slumping starter Brian Hoyer. "I've seen him in practice."

With the Browns' playoff hopes fading fast and Hoyer in a four-week funk, the team has turned to Manziel, the super-hyped first-round draft pick who garnered his Johnny Football nickname with electrifying plays at Texas A&M. Pettine said the switch was necessary because of Hoyer's struggles and the possibility Manziel can provide a spark. Manziel has already shown he's embracing his new role. He

was at the team's facility on Tuesday to get a head start on this week's home game against the Cincinnati Bengals. Last week, when the Browns were considering benching Hoyer, Manziel attended a Cavaliers game, leading some observers to criticize the 22-year-old's work ethic.

Manziel, who is the Browns' 21st starting quarterback since 1999, skipped the chance to see LeBron James and the Cavs play on Tuesday night.

"I know a lot of people were looking for him at the Cavs game," Pettine joked. "He was here."

Pettine believes Manziel, who has only been on the field for 18 plays this season, has already earned the respect of his teammates.

"They see how he's practiced throughout the year, and I thought he ramped it up a little bit more

last week," Pettine said. "They'll see him in a different light. Even being in the walkthrough this morning, you could just see the

I'm sure it'll show and the guys around him will respect it."

Pettine said it was "very hard" to tell Hoyer, the

his starting job. Pettine said there was little choice but to go with Manziel because Hoyer's "body of work was trending the wrong direction."

Pettine said there will be some adjustments to Cleveland's offense to help Manziel, who replaced Hoyer in the fourth quarter two weeks ago and led the Browns on a touchdown drive.

As for Manziel's knack for improvisation and ability to beat a defense with his arm or legs, Pettine said it's important that Johnny Football doesn't deviate too far from the play call.

"You've got to find some common ground there," he said. "It's going to be more in the structure of our offense. But if a guy has a unique skillset, you want to be able to utilize that. Every drop back can't turn into a punt return. You won't want to turn into street ball." □



Cleveland Browns offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, left, talks to quarterback Johnny Manziel (2) during practice at the NFL football team's facility in Berea, Ohio Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014. After spending 13 games as a backup, Manziel will start Sunday when the Browns, with their playoff chances on the line, host the Cincinnati Bengals
Associated Press

presence in the huddle and the command and how he was calling things.

hometown kid who got the Browns into playoff contention, that he lost

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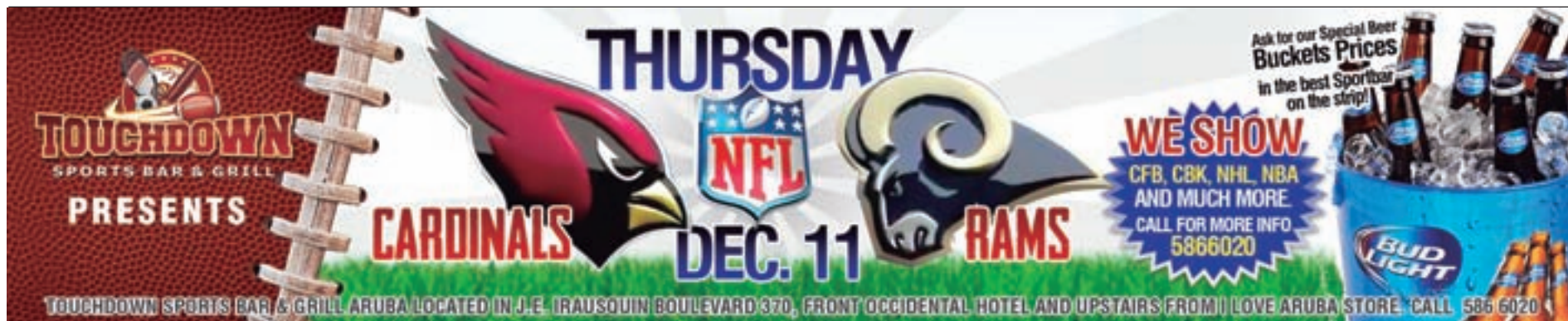
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Jon Lester, Cubs agree to \$155M, 6-year contract

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) -- Jon Lester agreed Tuesday night to a \$155 million, six-year contract with the Cubs, the first big deal of the offseason involving a top-level starting pitcher and one Chicago hopes will help end more than a century of frustration at Wrigley Field's Friendly Confines. Lester's contract, agreed to on the second day of baseball's winter meetings, contains an option for 2021 that, if it becomes guaranteed, would make the deal worth \$170 million over seven seasons. The average annual value of \$25.8 million is the second-highest for a pitcher behind Clayton Kershaw's \$30.7 million as part of a \$215 million, seven-year deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers that began this year.

"It's not often you get to win the lottery, and we won the baseball lottery this year," new Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "Now it's up to us to put it into effect."

A three-time All-Star who turns 31 next month, Lester won two World Series titles with Boston. The left-hander joins a long-suffering team with a promising core of young players and a top-tier manager, Maddon, who left Tampa Bay and signed a \$25 million, five-year contract with the Cubs.

Now, Chicago has an ace to lead the rotation as it tries to end a run of five straight losing seasons and a championship drought that dates to 1908.

Lester was dealt by the Red Sox to Oakland at the trade deadline in July and helped the A's reach the playoffs for the third straight year before a 9-8, 12-inning loss to Kan-

sas City in the AL wild-card game. He went 16-11 with a career-best 2.46 ERA and 220 strikeouts last season and is 116-67 with a 3.58 ERA in nine big league seasons.

He also had been sought by the Red Sox, World Series champion San Francisco and the Los Angeles Dodgers. Lester is headed to a team that hasn't made the playoffs since 2008, but he knows Cubs president of baseball operations Theo Epstein and general manager Jed Hoyer from their time together in Boston.

Maddon had been used to small payrolls in Tampa Bay. "I've not been on this side since my days with the Angels, when I got an email in Italy that we had signed Vladimir Guerrero," said Maddon, who was a coach in Anaheim before switching to Tampa Bay. "I think that definitely sends that message how Theo and the group feel about this particular group. But understand, we have a lot of young players that have to grow up as quickly as possible. But having Jon there adds to the flavor and the possibility."

The Cubs' management is making over the team in a big way.

Chicago has a pending \$20 million, two-year deal with right-hander Jason Hamel, traded by the Cubs to Oakland last summer. Earlier Tuesday, the Cubs acquired All-Star catcher Miguel Montero from Arizona for minor league right-handers Jefferson Mejia and Zack Godley - a deal that added \$40 million in payroll over the next three years.

Chicago's rotation is likely to also include Jake Arrieta, Travis Wood, and Kyle Hen-



In this Sept. 3, 2014, file photo, Oakland Athletics pitcher Jon Lester throws against the Seattle Mariners during the first inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif. Associated Press

dricks. The Cubs also have a pair of All-Stars in the batting order in first baseman Anthony Rizzo and shortstop Starlin Castro and expect improved performances from young sluggers Javier Baez and Jorge Soler. Ahead is

another wave of prospects that includes third baseman Kris Bryant and shortstop Addison Russell.

Maddon hopes an addition such as Lester helps change the mindset in the clubhouse when spring training starts in

February. "It definitely makes it more believable to everybody else in that room," he said. "I'll stand up and make the same speech regardless, but when you have it backed up by that particular kind of presence, it adds to it." □

Tomas can opt out of deal after \$36M and 4 years

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Yasmany Tomas can become a free agent again after receiving \$36 million during the first four years of his contract with the Arizona Diamondbacks. Under the agreement announced Monday, the Cuban defector is guaranteed \$68.5 million over six seasons.

Tomas gets a \$14 million signing bonus that is payable within 30 days of the deal's approval by Major League Baseball, and then salaries of \$2 million next year, \$4 million in 2016, \$6 million in 2017 and \$10 million in 2018.

An outfielder who may be moved to third base,

Tomas can opt out of the remainder of the contract after the 2018 World Series. If he keeps the deal, he would get \$15.5 million in 2019 and \$17 million in 2020.

Tomas would get a \$25,000 if he's elected to start in the All-Star game and \$15,000 if he's picked as a reserve. He also would get \$25,000 for a Gold Glove award, \$15,000 for a Silver Slugger and \$50,000 if he's selected for The Sporting News all-star team. The agreement includes \$75,000 for league championship series MVP, \$100,000 for World Series MVP and \$100,000 for league MVP, with \$90,000 for second, \$80,000 for third, \$70,000



In this March 9, 2013, file photo, Cuba's rightfielder Yasmany Tomas, right, celebrates with third base coach Primitivo Diaz after hitting a three-run homer off Taiwan's pitcher Yang Yao-hsun in the fourth inning of their World Baseball Classic second round game at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo.

Associated Press for fourth and \$60,000 for fifth. □

NBA Capsules

Continued from Page 17

Valanciunas had a strong first half with 14 points and nine rebounds.

GRIZZLIES 114, MAVERICKS 105

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Marc Gasol scored 30 points, Mike Conley added 22 and the Grizzlies withstood 18 Dallas 3-pointers. Gasol, who was limited to only two points in Sunday's win over Miami, was 9 of 14 from the field and 12 of 13 from the line as Memphis won its second straight. Zach Randolph had 17 points and 13 rebounds, while Tony Allen scored 13 points.

Chandler Parsons led the Mavericks with 30 points, going 10 of 18 from the field and 6 of 10 from 3-point range. Jameer Nelson had a season-high 18 points.

TRAIL BLAZERS 98, PISTONS 86

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Wesley Matthews scored 19 points, and Portland earned its fifth straight victory.

Detroit lost its 13th in a row, one short of the franchise record set in 1979-80 and tied in 1993-94. Those were both aging teams, with the second group marking the end of the Bad Boys era at the Palace. The current Pistons haven't had a winning

season or won a playoff game in seven years.

Greg Monroe had 22 points and 10 rebounds for Detroit, which only got 40 points from its starting lineup.

JAZZ 100, SPURS 96

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Derrick Favors scored 21 points, Gordon Hayward added 20 and Utah snapped a nine-game losing streak.

Enes Kanter added 12 points and 15 rebounds for his fourth double-double of the season, while Alec Burks chipped in 14 points for Utah, which lost all four games against the Spurs last season.

Tim Duncan had 23 points and 13 rebounds for San Antonio. Kawhi Leonard added 16 points for the Spurs, who played without starting point guard Tony Parker.

Utah outrebounded San Antonio 43-37, although the Spurs had a 62-50 advantage in points in the paint.

PELICANS 104, KNICKS 93

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Tyreke Evans scored 27 points, Anthony Davis had 18 and the Pelicans handed the reeling Knicks their ninth straight loss.

Omer Asik had 16 points and 14 rebounds, and Jrue Holiday scored 13 points for New Orleans, which won its second straight to pull



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant dunks during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

back to .500 at 10-10.

Amare Stoudemire scored a season-high 26 points and Carmelo Anthony had 17 for New York, which kept the game close into the fourth quarter before fading down the stretch, as the Knicks have done often this season.

Pablo Prigioni scored 17 for the Knicks, who fell to 4-19 with what was also their 10th straight road loss.

THUNDER 114, BUCKS 101

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant scored

23 points in his first home game of the season, leading Oklahoma City to the victory.

Durant, the reigning MVP, missed the first 17 games with a broken bone in his right foot, and then played three road games before making his home debut. He also had nine rebounds and seven assists.

Russell Westbrook scored 28 points for the Thunder, who have won five of six after starting the season with a 3-12 record.

O.J. Mayo had 18 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo added 17 for the Bucks, who have lost five of six.

HEAT 103, SUNS 97

PHOENIX (AP) — Chris Bosh scored 10 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter, including seven straight down the stretch, and Miami snapped a four-game losing streak.

Luol Deng scored 23 points and Dwyane Wade added 16 for the Heat.

Miami has won nine straight against the Suns, and eight straight in Phoenix.

Marcus Morris scored a career-high 25 points for Phoenix on 10-of-13 shooting. Gerald Green added 19 points, including five 3-pointers, and Markieff Morris had 17.

Phoenix has lost three straight.

LAKERS 98, KINGS 95

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant scored nine of his 32 points in the final 3:14, leading the Los Angeles Lakers' fourth-quarter comeback over the Sacramento Kings.

Carlos Boozer added 15 points for the Lakers, who snapped their three-game skid by rallying from a 12-point deficit in the second half.

After Bryant tied it at 92 with a breakaway dunk and a clutch 3-pointer, Jordan Hill's layup on a sharp pass from Bryant put the Lakers ahead 94-93 with 1:39 to play. □



In this May 27, 2014, file photo, Magic Johnson watches before a baseball game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Cincinnati Reds in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Magic Johnson wants the Los Angeles Lakers to lose every game this season for their own good.

Coach Byron Scott thinks

they're better off learning how to win, and that's just what they did several hours after Magic's latest pointed comments.

Johnson discussed the struggling Lakers on Tuesday at a promotional ap-

Byron Scott wants Lakers to win now, unlike Magic

pearance in New York, and the Hall of Famer dished out some blunt thoughts on the 16-time NBA champion franchise's future.

"I hope the Lakers lose every game," the former Lakers point guard said. "Because if you're going to lose, lose. And I'm serious. If you're going to lose, you've got to lose, because you can't be in the middle of the pack. You either have to be great, or you've got to be bad to get a good pick."

A few hours later, Scott responded to his former

Lakers backcourt mate by stressing the importance of establishing a winning climate surrounding Kobe Bryant. Scott says tanking wouldn't be entertained by the Lakers, whose 6-16 record is tied for the second-worst in the Western Conference.

"That's easy to say, but when you're behind the scenes and you're in the trenches and you're coaching, that's not something that you want to do," Scott said. "We've got to go out here and win every game possible. I mean, if

you lose games, that's one thing. But to go out and try to lose, that's a different story. I think that sends a message to those guys in there that it's going back to that losing mentality. We don't want to create that here."

Bryant scored 32 points in the Lakers' 98-95 win over Sacramento on Tuesday, ending a three-game losing run. Kobe also wants no part of Magic's plan.

"He's used to being an owner," Bryant said with a laugh. "He's the owner of the Dodgers. □"

NHL Capsules

Blackhawks' streak 7 after shootout win

The Associated Press

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane scored in a shootout, and the Chicago Blackhawks rallied late to earn their seventh straight victory with a 3-2 win over the New Jersey Devils on Tuesday night.

Bryan Bickell and Duncan Keith had goals in regulation for Chicago, whose winning streak matches the NHL high for this season. Scott Darling made 22 saves, including two stops in the shootout.

The loss spoiled the first NHL start for Devils goalie Keith Kinkaid, who made 37 saves.

Jordin Tootoo and Stephen Gionta scored for New Jersey, and Steve Bernier added two assists for the Devils, who were trying for back to back wins.

BLUE JACKETS 3, FLYERS 2, OT COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Kevin Connauton scored his first goal of the season at 1:58 of overtime to lift Columbus past Philadelphia for its fourth straight win.

Boone Jenner scored in his career-best fourth straight game, and Scott Hartnell also had a goal. Sergei Bobrovsky made 19 saves.

Brayden Schenn had both goals for the Flyers, including one after a video review with 55.3 seconds left in the third period. Mason stopped 21 shots.

Columbus' longest winning streak of the season follows a six-game skid that was part of a 2-13-2 stretch.

Connauton played his seventh game since being picked up off waivers from Dallas on Nov. 18.

The Flyers, playing the last of a five-game, 11-day trip, had lost 10 of 11 before beating Los Angeles on Saturday.

WILD 5, ISLANDERS 4

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Nino Niederreiter tapped in the go-ahead goal with 4:33 left and capped a furious comeback by Minnesota in a win over the New York Islanders.

The Wild trailed 3-0 after the first period and 4-1 at the second intermission, but they were fired up midway through the game. Defense-man Keith Ballard was sent to a hospital after his head bounced hard on the ice, following a hit from Matt Martin.

Jason Pominville, Mikko Koivu, Erik Haula and Thomas Vanek scored for the Wild, and Niederreiter followed with the most dramatic goal against the team that chose him No. 5 in the 2010 draft.

Chad Johnson made 25 saves for the Islanders, who lost their second straight after leading 3-0 in the first.

Michael Grabner, Brock Nelson and Martin scored early for the Islanders, and Josh

Bailey gave them a 4-1 lead on their lone shot of the second period.

Niklas Backstrom made 15 saves for the Wild, who outshot the Islanders 27-8 over the final two periods.

SABRES 1, KINGS 0

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Tyler

Sabres kept up their home mastery of the Kings. Los Angeles is 1-11-1-1 in its last 14 games in Buffalo.

Jonathan Quick had a shutout streak of 119 minutes, 54 seconds against Buffalo snapped by Ennis. Quick blanked the Sabres on Oct.

this season.

CAPITALS 5, LIGHTNING 3

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Braden Holtby made 33 saves, Alex Ovechkin scored twice to break out of a four-game drought, and Washington beat Tampa Bay to complete a perfect three-game



The puck enters the net of New Jersey Devils goalkeeper Keith Kinkaid (1) on a shot by Chicago Blackhawks defenseman Duncan Keith (2) as Devils' Mike Sislo (32) tries to defend during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014, in Newark, N.J. The Blackhawks won 3-2 in a shootout.

Associated Press

Ennis' third-period, power-play goal lifted Buffalo to a win over Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday night.

Jhonas Enroth made 34 saves for his first shutout since April 13, 2013, and the

23 in Los Angeles.

The Sabres snapped a two-game losing streak and won their third straight at home. The defending champion Kings lost consecutive games for the fourth time

road trip.

Washington also got goals from Matt Niskanen, Brooks Laich and Troy Brouwer. Ovechkin has 37 goals and 74 points in 56 games against Tampa Bay. □

New look for Franklin Templeton Shootout

By CRAIG HANDEL

Associated Press

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — The Franklin Templeton Shootout has had a makeover.

Greg Norman's tournament has a new format, course look and TV partner and will run from Thursday-Saturday instead of Friday-Sunday.

After Matt Kuchar and Harris English took the suspense out of the final round last year by shooting a record 34-under 182 and winning by seven shots, Norman and tournament officials tweaked the format order from modified alternate shot, better ball and scramble to scramble, modified alternate shot and better ball.

"I completely understand the idea that the scramble format, there's not a whole lot of separation that happens," Kuchar said. "You don't get the big differences in scores. The best ball, you might have guys go 2-under to 12-under, or even better."

For the first time, Fox Sports is getting into the golf business. Norman will join Joe Buck in the broadcast booth. They also will work the U.S. Open this summer. Fox will employ 73 microphones, 24 cameras, 10 replay machines, seven broadcasters and five audio mixers for the tournament. The switch to Fox forced the Saturday finish. After Satur-

day's broadcast, Buck will fly to Seattle to work the Seahawks' game against the San Francisco 49ers.

"I come at this as a guy who just loves the game and loves to play and loves to be out with friends and try to get better at this game," Buck said. "I've been doing this for a long time now and I've gone from being the kid and trying to prove myself in baseball and football to somebody who's done it for a long time and I think I understand TV."

"Greg knows the golf part of it I think together we'll make this thing work."

Norman calls the broadcasting venture one of the top five things he has done

in his life.

"I think going in I'll be as nervous as I was walking the first tee at Augusta National and teeing it up for the first time," he said.

With several greens showing early signs of disease, both of the Norman-designed Tiburon courses will be used. The front nine will start on Tiburon's Black course, using holes 1-7 and 17, 18. Closing holes Nos. 13-18 will remain the same on Tiburon's Gold course.

"The greens on one side were suffering," Ian Poulter said. "So to move it to play nine holes on the other course actually is the first time I've played it and it's a lot of fun. It's very tight, very

tricky. So if you put it in play, you're going to make plenty of birdies. But it's easy to get out of position, so from that standpoint it's good, it's a good change."

English and Kuchar are teaming again in the 12-team field.

The other pairings are: Poulter-Billy Horschel, Graeme McDowell-Gary Woodland, Keegan Bradley-Camilo Villegas, Jason Day-Cameron Tringale, Patrick Reed-Brandt Snedeker, Ryan Palmer-Jimmy Walker, Jerry Kelly-Steve Stricker, Sean O'Hair-Kenny Perry, Retief Goosen-Mike Weir, Charles Howell III-Scott Verplank and Justin Leonard-Rory Sabbatini. □

Panthers' Cam Newton discharged from hospital



A Charlotte firefighter tends to Carolina Panthers NFL football quarterback Cam Newton following a two-vehicle crash not far from the team's stadium in Charlotte, N.C., Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014. Associated Press

STEVE REED

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Cam Newton has been discharged from the hospital following a two-car crash that left the quarterback with two fractures in his lower back, team officials said.

Panthers spokesman Charlie Dayton said Wednesday that Newton was thankful for the care he received and is stiff and sore, but otherwise "his spirits were high." Newton left the hospital with his family and will stay with them while recuperating. He will not be at the team's facility Wednesday.

It remains unclear when Newton will return to action. "That will be determined really on a day-to-day basis and we'll see how fast the soreness goes away," Dayton said. "He'll start the recuperation process today."

Newton's father Cecil and mother Jackie, who live in Atlanta, arrived in Charlotte Tuesday after the accident.

The Panthers began practicing Wednesday in preparation for Sunday's divisional game against Tampa Bay. Derek Anderson worked as the first-team quarterback.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police issued no citations for the accident.

A police report states that Newton was driving when a car pulled out in front of the fourth-year quarterback, causing his Dodge truck to flip. The report said the other driver didn't see Newton's truck at first and when he did, he tried to avoid a collision.

The report does not place blame on either driver. Like Newton, the other driver was taken to the hospital but his injuries are unknown. Panthers general manager Dave Gettleman was at the league owner's meeting in Irving, Texas on Tuesday when he received a call from his office about the crash.

"I'm just thankful he was wearing a seatbelt and everyone involved is all right," Gettleman said Wednesday morning before boarding a plane back to Charlotte.

Gettleman said he was horrified by the photos from the accident scene and that it wasn't until some time later he breathed a sigh of relief.

"You spend so much time with these guys and they become part of the family," Gettleman said.

The horrific-looking accident was the latest unfortunate turn in what has been a frustrating season for Newton.

"You look at the truck and you think, 'Man, I'm glad there was nobody in the passenger seat because it could have been bad,'" Gettleman said.

Newton has no internal injuries and will not need surgery.

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo suffered the same injury description earlier this year against Washington and sat out one game before returning to action the following week.

However, Romo's injury came on the field, not in a car accident.



This is a Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012 file photo of Russia's Maria Savinova as she celebrates as she crosses the finish line ahead of South Africa's Caster Semenya to win the women's 800-meters final the athletics in the Olympic Stadium at the 2012 Summer Olympics, London.

Associated Press

WADA to investigate Russian doping allegations

MONTREAL (AP) — The World Anti-Doping Agency says it will conduct its own probe of allegations of systematic doping in Russia. WADA announced the inquiry Wednesday after "careful review of a series of documentary programs over the past week" by Germany's ARD network. The programs alleged a web of doping and corruption in Russian athletics that implicated government-backed agencies. Last week, WADA said it would ensure that the alle-

gations were investigated, and had passed evidence to an IAAF ethics panel.

Now, WADA President Craig Reedie has promised an agency probe "to determine what actions are required to be taken by WADA and others." Reedie's statement targets "all athletes who have cheated," though does not mention officials who have been implicated.

WADA says it will later announce details of the inquiry and investigation panel.



In this Aug. 20, 2014, file photo, Houston Texans linebacker Jadeveon Clowney runs a drill during a joint practice between the Denver Broncos and the Texans in Englewood, Colo.

Associated Press

Texans' OLB Clowney has microfracture knee surgery

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans say Jadeveon Clowney, the top overall pick in this year's NFL draft, has had microfracture surgery on his right knee. The team said last week that Clowney would have season-ending knee sur-

gery, but did not specify what that surgery would be.

The surgery Tuesday was the second this season for the outside linebacker. He had arthroscopic surgery on the same knee after being injured in Week 1.

He played three games since the first procedure but continued to struggle with pain and swelling in his knee.

Tech summit addresses industry's lack of diversity

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson spent most of this year pressuring the technology industry into facing up to the glaring scarcity of women, blacks and Latinos at companies renowned as great places to work. Now comes Diversity 2.0 — finding ways to reverse a deep-rooted problem that isn't going to be as easy to fix as writing new lines of code for a computer bug. Some of the potential solutions will be explored Wednesday at a Silicon Valley summit organized by Jackson and his group, Rainbow Push.

Representatives from Google, Apple, Facebook and more than other 20 other tech companies will be on hand to elaborate on their plans to diversify their workforces. They'll also hear from entrepreneurs, academics and nonprofit groups that have been trying to overcome the cultural and educational challenges that turned computer programming into an occupation dominated by white and Asian men.

"It definitely feels like we are entering a new phase,"

says Laura Weidman Powers, CEO of Code2040, a San Francisco nonprofit that has been lining up technology internships for black and Latino college students for the past three summers. "When we first started, diversity just wasn't on the list of these large companies that have power and potential to make change. Now, it really feels like it is. They may not know exactly what to do yet, but they are interested in taking steps in the right direction."

Wednesday's forum will mark the first time that many tech companies have publicly addressed their lack of diversity since acknowledging the problem earlier this year in contrite blog posts accompanying the ethnic and gender breakdowns of their workforces.

With a few notable exceptions like Intel Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co., most major technology employers had long resisted requests to release the employment data that they regularly file with federal labor regulators. Google Inc. finally relented to Jackson's demands in May, triggering a domino effect across the



In this photo taken Monday, Dec. 8, 2014, Rev. Jesse Jackson, center, visits Kacie Gonzalez, left, vice president of business development and Nick Norena, both with the company Shoto, at the Workshop Cafe in San Francisco.

Associated Press

industry.

Jackson, 73, says he intends to hold the companies accountable for promises to make their workforces look more like the overall population. He met with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella last week and had what he described as a "positive and productive dialogue" Monday with Apple CEO Tim Cook.

He has another closed-

door meeting scheduled Thursday with Intel Corp. CEO Brian Krzanich (Intel is hosting Wednesday's workshop at its Santa Clara, California, headquarters). Next month, Rainbow PUSH will release the first of what Jackson promises will be an annual scorecard rating the diversity progress of major tech companies.

"Many of these companies had an unfounded fear that we wanted to disrupt them," Jackson says. "We came not to disrupt, but to build. Inclusion will lead to growth."

Silicon Valley, a place that prides itself on progressive thinking and meritocratic policies, has a lot of ground to make up. For instance, only 2 percent of the U.S. workers at Google and Facebook are black and the number of Hispanics is below 5 percent at both companies. Cutting across the U.S. in all industries, 12 percent of the workforce is black and 14 percent is Hispanic. Meanwhile, less than one-third of the worldwide workforces at most major technology companies, including Google, Apple and Facebook, are comprised of women.

Diversifying the tech companies "is going to be a multi-decade process," predicted Gary May, the engineering dean at Geor-

gia Tech University, which has a long track record for training minority students in technical fields. "But this isn't rocket science. Google already has underscored its commitment to bringing more women into the technology industry by pouring \$50 million into a program called "Made With Code" during the next three years and partnering with nonprofits such as Girls Who Code, which has been running summer educational programs for girls since 2012.

President Barack Obama also is trying to prepare more teenage girls and minority boys for technology careers as part of educational programs unveiled this week. The initiative calls for major school districts encompassing New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, Las Vegas, Houston and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to start offering introductory computer science courses to all students in high school or middle school.

Liliana Monge, who runs a Los Angeles computer coding camp called Sabia.la for women and minorities, likens the technology industry's reckoning with its diversity issue to what happens after a habitual drinker finally starts to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

Researchers stymied by hackers who drop fake clues

RAPHAEL SATTER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It's a hacker whodunit.

Researchers say they have a wealth of clues — but no clear answers — as to the identity of those behind a series of newly discovered cyberattacks targeting Russian and Eastern European embassies, oil companies and military officers. "The level of misdirection is impressive," said Hugh Thompson, a security strategist at Blue Coat Systems, Inc., which is publishing a report on the malware campaign Wednesday.

Blue Coat says the malware — nicknamed "Inception" after the complex dream heist movie starring Leon-

ardo DiCaprio — has been attacking mainly Russian or Eastern European targets in the fields of diplomacy, energy and finance.

The Blue Coat report says researchers found signs hinting at the hackers' identity, but that they're all over the map.

For example, some of the malicious code carries words in Arabic and Hindi. Another piece of code carries the words, "God Save The Queen." A third clue, suggesting Chinese involvement, appears to have been left on purpose after the attackers realized they were being watched. Kaspersky Lab researcher Costin Raiu, who is familiar with the malware, links the

code to "Red October," a Russia-focused campaign his company uncovered early last year. Raiu points to similarities in the attackers' "philosophy and style" and says several of the same targets were hit.

Blue Coat malware researcher Waylon Grange says that connection is possible, but that he is reserving judgment in light of the hackers' trickiness. And he says the new campaign is a good reminder that suggestive words or phrases found hiding in malicious code aren't necessarily smoking guns.

"A lot of these, as this malware illustrates, can be made up, and can lead you astray," he said.

Wall Street tumbles its furthest in two months

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil resumed its slide on Wednesday and took the stock market down with it.

The catalyst for the latest sell-off in oil was an OPEC report that projected demand for its crude would sink next year to levels not seen in more than a decade. Demand for the cartel's oil has been eroded as other countries such as the U.S. have stepped up production.

The decline in the price of oil accelerated after the U.S. Energy Department reported that domestic oil inventories had increased. Analysts expected a decline.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell \$2.88 to close at \$60.94 a barrel. The price of oil has now dropped more than 40 percent from a peak of \$107 in June.

The wider fallout from the plunge in the price of oil may be starting to worry investors. While lower oil prices are good for consumers and some industries, if prices continue to drop some producers may be forced out of business.

"The slide in oil has been pretty dramatic," said Ran-



Trader Peter Mancuso, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014. Oil resumed its slide on Wednesday and took the stock market down with it.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

dy Frederick, managing director of trading and derivatives with the Schwab Center for Financial Research. "There is an over-reaction to these lower energy prices, which is what we seem to be seeing right now, where it becomes more panic selling."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 33.68 points, or 1.6

percent, to 2,026.14. The decline was the biggest for the index since Oct. 13.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 268.05 points, or 1.5 percent, to 17,533.15. The Nasdaq composite fell 82.44 points, or 1.7 percent, to 4,684.03.

Falling oil prices and concerns about global growth have pushed stocks down

sharply since they closed at record levels on Friday. The market rose that day after the government reported a jump in hiring in November that put the U.S. on track for the healthiest year for job creation since 1999.

The resilience of the U.S. economy has prompted investors to speculate that the Federal Reserve will signal next week that it is nearing its first rate increase in more than eight years. The prospect of higher rates is unsettling for some investors as the market's almost six-year bull run has come against a backdrop of unprecedented stimulus.

Federal Reserve policymakers are scheduled to convene a two-day meeting on Dec. 16.

"The stronger employment data and economic data that we have gotten has only increased people's confidence that the Fed is going to be raising rates by the (middle) of next year," said Rob Eschweiler, global investment specialist at J.P. Morgan Private Bank in Houston.

Among individual stocks, Yum Brands, which owns the Taco Bell, KFC and Pizza Hut chains, was one of the day's big losers.

The stock slumped after the company cut its profit outlook for the year late Tuesday. It said sales in China are recovering more slowly than expected after a food-safety scare. Yum fell \$4.69, or 6.2 percent, to \$70.53.

Shares of airlines, which are heavy fuel users, rose as oil plunged. Southwest Airlines gained 75 cents, or 1.8 percent, to \$41.48. The stock has gained 120 percent this year.

Government bond prices rose. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.17 percent from 2.21 percent on Tuesday. In currency trading, the dollar fell to 117.90 yen from 119.40 late Tuesday. The euro rose to \$1.2445 from \$1.2385.

In metals trading, Gold was little changed, dropping \$2.60, or 0.2 percent, to \$1,229.40 an ounce. Silver rose 5.3 cents, or 0.3 percent, to \$17.19 an ounce. Copper fell 3.5 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$2.89 per pound.

In other energy trading, Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell \$2.60, or 3.9 percent, to \$64.24 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London. □

Airlines worldwide expect big rise in profits in 2015

NICOLA CLARK

© 2014 New York Times

GENEVA - The sharp drop in oil prices and stronger global economic growth are expected to bolster airline profits by as much as 26 percent next year, an industry group said Wednesday.

But only some of those gains are likely to be passed on to consumers in the form of lower fares, because of billions of dollars in planned investments in new aircraft and expanding flight networks. The International Air Transport Association, an industry group based in Geneva, estimated that the world's airlines would report a 26 percent jump in collective net profit, to a record \$25 billion. That would be up from an expected \$19.9 billion in 2014 and more than double the

nearly \$11 billion in combined profit in 2013.

"There's no doubt that the recent fall in the oil price is a relief for airlines," Tony Tyler, the association's director general and chief executive told journalists here.

The trade group, which represents most of the world's airlines, said it based its 2015 forecasts on the assumption of an average price of \$85 a barrel of crude oil, which is refined into kerosene for use as jet fuel. That would represent the lowest fuel prices for the industry since 2010.

Fuel is the largest operating expense for airlines, accounting in recent years for as much as two-fifths of total costs. But a sharp increase in U.S. production of oil has led to a jump in global supplies, pushing



Airport employee Jeremy Summers loads fuel into one of Alaska Airlines' Boeing 737s at Sea-Tac Airport in Seattle. The sharp drop in oil prices and stronger global economic growth in 2014 are expected to bolster airline profits by as much as 26 percent in 2015, the International Air Transport Association said. (Stuart Isett/The New York Times)

crude oil prices down by about 40 percent this year. While many consumers are accustomed to seeing such price drops reflected relatively quickly in the price of gas, airline passengers have usually had

to wait to see any drop in ticket prices.

One reason is the fact that airlines buy their fuel in advance, locking them into higher fixed prices for several months, even when market prices fall.

"If you've already bought and paid for your turkey for next Thanksgiving, and prices come down in the meantime, you won't get any benefit from any subsequent reduction in turkey prices," said John Strickland, an independent airline consultant in London. In addition, he said that airlines "also swallowed the pain of rapidly rising prices in the last year or so" that have not been fully reflected in fares.

Others noted that other significant operating expenses - labor is one major expense, airport and infrastructure taxes are another - remain high across much of the airline industry.

And so the short-term relief to consumers is often less pronounced in air travel than the one they see at the gas pump. □

Many feel American Dream is out of reach, a poll shows

ANDREW SORKIN
MEGAN BRENNAN

© 2014 New York Times

Despite an improving economy and jobs picture, the public is more pessimistic than it was after the 2008 financial crisis that it is possible to work hard and become rich, according to a New York Times poll.

The poll, which explored Americans' opinions on a wide range of economic and financial issues, found that only 64 percent of respondents said they still believed in the American dream, the lowest result in roughly two decades. Even near the depth of the financial crisis in early 2009, 72 percent of Americans still believed that hard work could result in riches.

"Things have changed a lot," Michael Herdmann, a 54-year-old retired public works employee from Fairview Park, Ohio, said in a follow-up interview. "The decks have been stacked against not only the lower class but also the lower middle class."

"The modern-day politician has lost track of why the welfare programs were put in place," he added. "They don't understand that part of the reason we help the poor to buy food was also to help fund the farmers. They have systemically reduced most of what was there to help the poor." The significant drop in faith comes as the nation added 321,000 jobs last month and average hourly earnings for ordinary workers increased much more than expected. The economy is also being buoyed by a drop in oil prices, putting more money in the pockets of average Americans as the holiday season approaches. Notwithstanding the bleaker view of upward mobility, the majority of those polled said they were more concerned about the possibility that too much regulation in Washington could stymie the economy than they were about the prospect of inequality. Fifty-four percent of respondents said that "over-regulation that may interfere with economic growth" was a bigger problem than "too little regulation that may create an unequal distribution of wealth." Only 38 percent said that too little regulation posed a bigger problem. That answer was particularly noteworthy given the persistent concerns among economists and politicians from both parties about a growing gap between the wealthiest Americans and the middle class. "I don't know what you mean by an unequal distribution of wealth," said Robert Monti, a 74-year-old retired social studies teacher from Niagara Falls, New York, who identified himself as "a registered Democrat but haven't voted Democrat in years." "It's a proven fact that everybody can't make the same amount of money, and it's a ridiculous assumption that they can. You'll never have economic equality. Ever." Still, the poll showed that a slim 52 percent majority of Americans think the country's economic system is fair, giving everyone an equal opportunity to succeed; 45 percent think it is unfair. Those with higher household incomes were more likely to believe the system is fair. The definition of "rich" appears to vary greatly. Twenty-six percent of respondents in the Northeast said an annual income of \$100,000 to \$199,000 constituted a "rich" family. In the Midwest, 22 percent of respondents said a family earning less than \$100,000 could be considered "rich." Only 7 percent of Americans think a family of four needs a seven-figure annual household income to be considered rich. Almost half of Americans polled rated the nation's economy as good - a 9 percentage-point improvement since a year ago. But a plurality think the economy is stagnating rather than improving or worsening, perhaps because most - nearly 6 in 10 - report their own household financial situation as staying the same. More than three-quarters say they are concerned about having enough money for retirement, with those between the ages of 30 and 64 most concerned. □

Energy shares fall on weak demand

SARAH SELL

AP Business Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) —

Energy industry shares fell Wednesday as oversupply and weak demand continued to drag down the price of oil.

Oil prices have been falling for months, but new industry reports suggest it could fall further.

OPEC on Wednesday slashed its estimate of how much crude oil it will need to produce next year. And the Energy Department on Wednesday reported a surprise increase in U.S. crude supplies. That follows the U.S. Energy Department lowering its forecast this week for gasoline prices

yet again.

The spate of news helped send the price for U.S. benchmark oil down to five-year lows Wednesday. Benchmark U.S. crude slumped 4 percent Wednesday, or \$2.60, to \$61.23 a barrel. Prices have not been that low since July of 2009. U.S. crude prices have fallen 17 percent in two weeks.

Global oil supplies are high due to rising production in the U.S., while global demand is relatively weak because of slow economic growth. That is creating a glut of oil and lower crude prices, and it is causing oil companies to scale back drilling plans for next year.

Oil giants BP and ConocoPhillips both lowered their spending forecasts this week. BP said Wednesday that it will take \$1 billion in restructuring charges over the next year and is considering reducing its spending on development by as much as \$2 billion in 2015. And ConocoPhillips said earlier in the week that it would cut capital spending next year by 20 percent.

The mounting pressure sent shares of most major oil companies down in trading Wednesday, including declines of roughly 3 percent for Exxon Mobil Corp., ConocoPhillips and Chevron Corp. in midday trading. □



An oil pump works at sunset in the desert oil fields of Sakhr, Bahrain. Energy industry shares fell Wednesday, December 10, 2014, as oversupply and weak demand continued to drag down the price of oil. (AP Photo/Hasan Jamali)

To settle charges:

Morgan Stanley paying \$4M to SEC

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Morgan Stanley has agreed to pay \$4 million to settle federal charges of failing to prevent the unauthorized purchase of \$525 million in Apple stock by one of its customers.

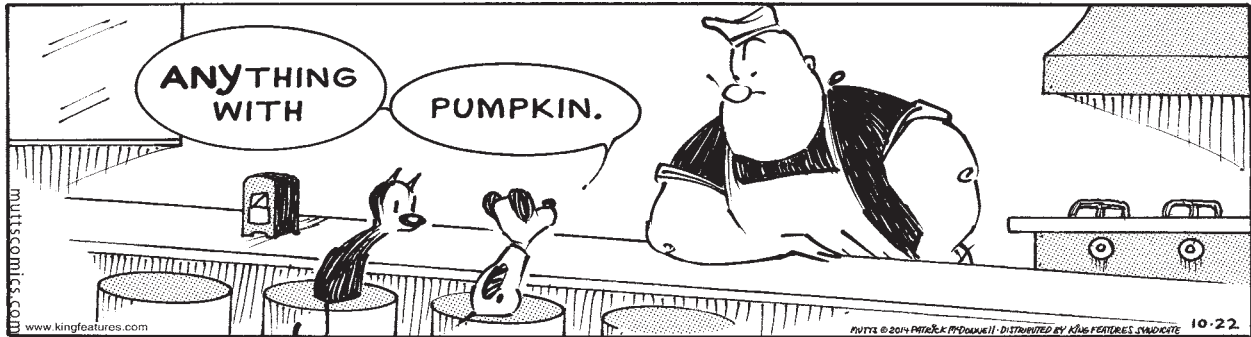
The Securities and Exchange Commission announced the settlement Wednesday with the big Wall Street bank. The SEC said Morgan Stanley violated a rule requiring brokerage firms to have strong risk measures in place before they give customers access to the markets.

In this case, a trader at customer firm Rochdale Securities made orders to buy Apple stock in October 2012 that exceeded Rochdale's trading limits, according to the agency. The trader used the stock purchases to commit fraud by personally profiting from the trades, the SEC said.

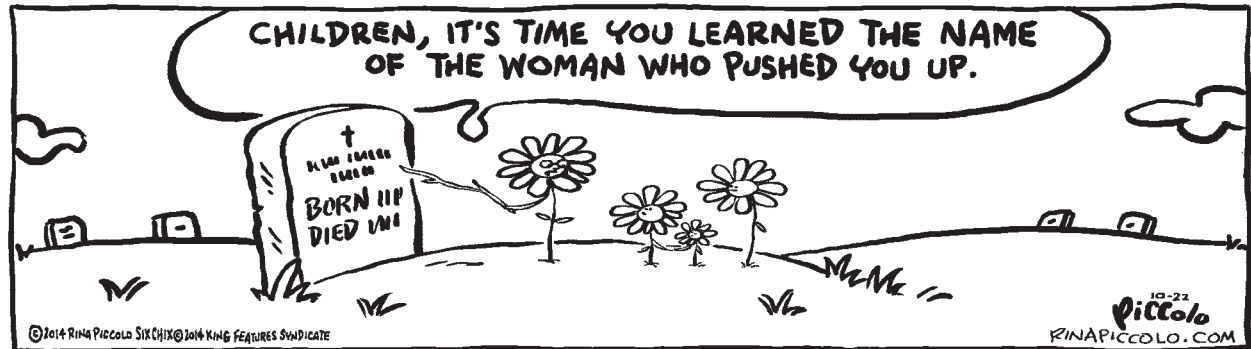
New York-based Morgan Stanley neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing but did agree to refrain from future violations of the rule involved in the case, known as the market access rule. The SEC also censured Morgan Stanley, bringing the possibility of

a stricter sanction if the alleged violation is repeated. "Morgan Stanley has updated its written procedures to address the issue identified in the SEC's order and is pleased to have this matter behind it," Morgan Stanley said in a statement. The unauthorized stock purchases by the trader, David Miller, caused Rochdale to suffer a \$5.3 million loss and were blamed for bringing the demise of the firm. Rochdale, which was based in Stamford, Connecticut, stopped doing business last year and filed for bankruptcy protection this fall. □

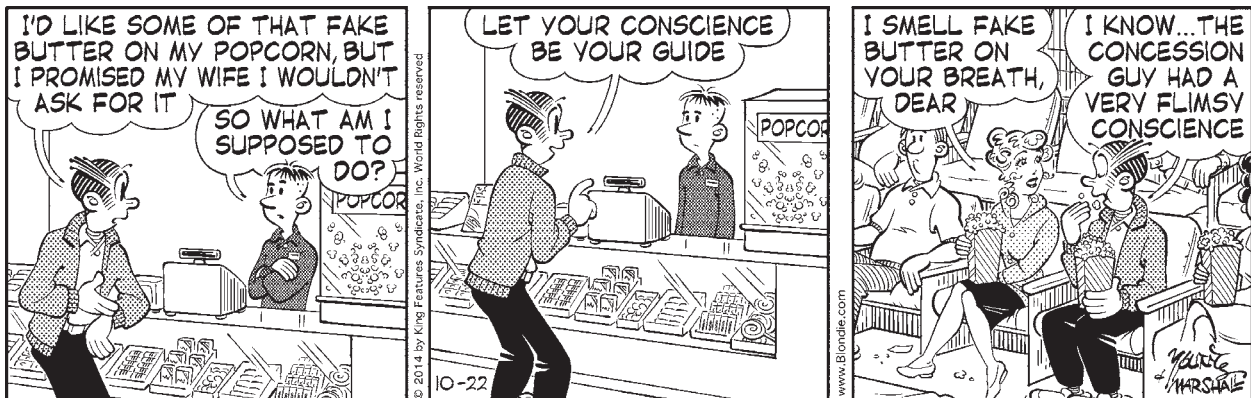
Mutts



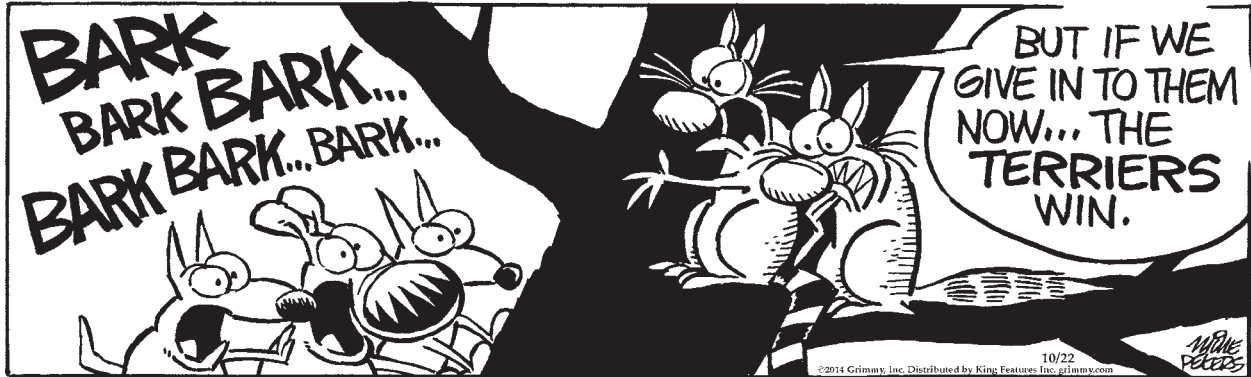
6 Chix



Blondie



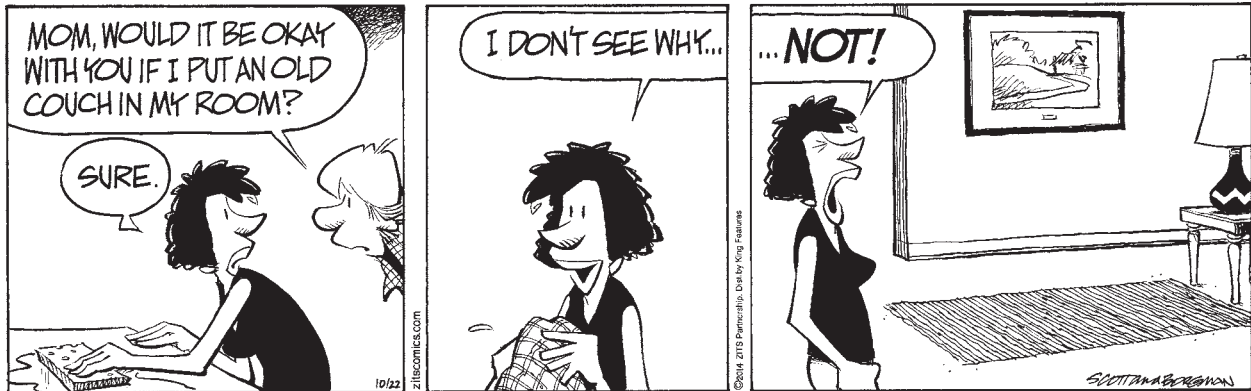
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			5	1				
			8		3	2		
		1					6	
	5		6					1
1					8			7
4		6	7	3				2
2	4		9				7	
		9				5		
		8	3	2	7	4	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/22

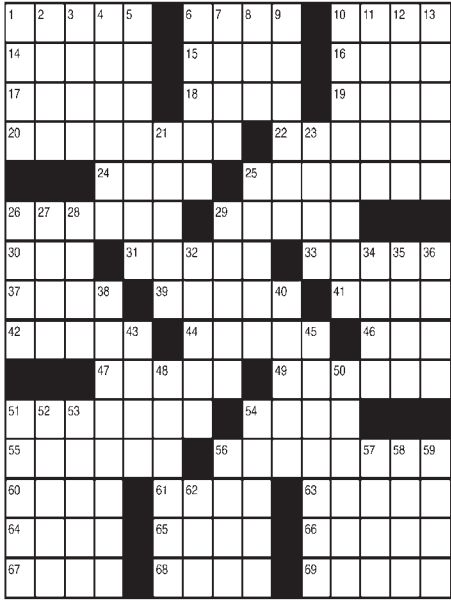
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	4	2	6	9	3	1	8	5
5	8	9	7	1	4	3	6	2
3	6	1	5	8	2	9	4	7
2	7	5	1	3	6	4	9	8
6	9	3	4	7	8	2	5	1
8	1	4	9	2	5	7	3	6
9	5	6	2	4	7	8	1	3
1	2	8	3	6	9	5	7	4
4	3	7	8	5	1	6	2	9

ACROSS

- 1 Piece of asparagus
6 Insincere action
10 Goes bad
14 Use a pencil's rubber end
15 Stack
16 Canyon sound
17 Most terrible
18 Rex or Donna
19 ___ pressure; influence from companions
20 Indulges freely
22 Burning
24 Ram or bull
25 Less ornate
26 Per person
29 Fundamental
30 Forbid entry to
31 Needing no encouragement
33 Pine that drops its needles in winter
37 Clippety-___
39 ___ Way; classic candy bar
41 S, M, L or XL
42 Mexican mister
44 Gets up
46 Is able to
47 Russian's dollar
49 Ocean ___; cruise ships
51 Fables
54 Delight
55 ___ in; relenting
56 Allen Ludden's TV game show
60 Not yet
61 Ixex or angora
63 Sioux home
64 Yearn
65 Qualified
66 From the East
67 Prescribed amount
68 Curved edges
69 ___ on; tramples



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/22/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

EGGS	STALL	UNIV
NOAH	HELLO	NOTE
DAZE	RELAY	BOOR
STERNUM	MASONRY	
	BOG	MALES
EBSEN	WAS	VOCAL
LENT	PEG	FEMALE
AGO	JANITOR	BAA
TAURUS	CUE	TIMS
ENTER	RAG	CANOE
	MODEL	RUB
ADMIRAL	GERALDO	
CRUX	VAGUE	SOON
TILE	ITALL	CAME
SPED	SELLS	ODES

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10/22/14

DOWN

- 1 Uses needle and thread
2 ___ up; support
3 Actor James ___ Jones
4 Take for granted
5 Go back over one's steps
6 Spending fling
7 Rushes
8 Beer's cousin
9 Military awards
10 Exact copies
11 Atlantic or Pacific
12 ___ song; TV show's music
13 More tender to the touch
21 Sparkle
23 Blow it
25 Grassy areas for recreation
26 Basics
27 Sickly-looking
28 Element whose symbol is Fe
29 Misrepresent
32 Young ladies
34 Part of most Chinese meals
35 Leader's title in old Russia

- 36 Laying birds
38 Hot cereal
40 Shouts
43 Destroy
45 Afternoon naps
48 Panhandler
50 Most modern
51 Overcook milk
52 Forbidden
53 Large kitchen appliances
54 Microsoft's Bill
56 Date tree
57 Sheriff Andy Taylor's boy
58 Gather crops
59 Lairs
62 Japanese sash

Malala's moment: Nobel winner speaks out

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — The Pakistani teenager stood on the stage of Oslo City Hall as the youngest Nobel Peace laureate, smiling as she listened to the thunderous ovation.

Now, everybody knows: She is Malala.

Shot in the head by the Taliban two years ago for speaking out on education, 17-year-old Malala Yousafzai on Wednesday beamed as she received the Nobel Peace Prize and taught a lesson in courage.

"I had two options. One was to remain silent and wait to be killed. And the second was to speak up and then be killed. I chose the second one. I decided to speak up," Malala said. And with that, Malala proved that teenagers could tell the elders a thing or two. Anyone who hadn't read her memoir, "I am Malala," was about to get an education.

She adjusted her coral pink headscarf and made no effort to hide any scars that might remain from the attack. She thanked her parents for unconditional love and then humbly suggested that she was somehow not all that special — just a girl who fights with her brothers who wanted to learn above all else.

"As far as I know, I am just a committed and even stubborn person who wants to see every child getting quality education, who wants to see women having equal rights and who wants peace in every corner of the world," she said. "Education is one of the blessings of life, and one of its necessities."

Malala shared the prize with Kailash Satyarthi of India. Both have campaigned for the rights of children and young people, particularly education. The two laureates bonded immediately. They share a hard-won understanding among those activists who have suffered much, but there is also warmth and commitment to the future. Satyarthi looked on approvingly as she spoke,



Nobel Peace prize laureate Malala Yousafzai, right, shakes hands with Norway's King Harald, with fellow laureate Kailash Satyarthi, centre, Wednesday Dec. 10, 2014 in Oslo City Hall. Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi both received the Nobel Peace Prize on Wednesday, both have campaigned for the rights of children and young people.

(AP Photo / Heiko Junge, NTB scanpix)

and has volunteered to be her second father. But in so many ways, it was Malala's moment. Even an asylum seeker from Mexico rushing on stage left her unperturbed.

She has used her time in the spotlight to offer hope that her prize will inspire young girls all over the world to fight for their rights — and to step forward to lead.

In an interview with The Associated Press, she played on theme of a global sisterhood of sorts, with women gathering the strength to fight for education, the key to a future. Malala herself often has expressed her wish to lead — setting sights on one day becoming Pakistani prime minister and following in the steps of the late Benazir Bhutto. And it was in talking about Pakistan that she melted — if but a bit. It was as if all the excitement about the Nobels, all the interviews, all the banquets — all of it — just faded for a moment as she described her pride in being Pakistani and what the award would mean for people back home. □

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Rhino species to die unless science can help

JASON STRAZIUSO

Associated Press

OL PEJETA, Kenya (AP) —

The task was never going to be easy: Fly four highly endangered rhinos from a Czech Republic zoo to East Africa, drive them to the savannah grasses of Mount Kenya and hope that the natural environment helps produce a calf, staving off extinction.

The experiment has all but failed.

The keepers of three northern white rhinos in Kenya — half of the world's remaining rhinos of that species — have begun saying publicly for the first time that their one male and two female rhinos will certainly not reproduce naturally.

The silver lining, though, is science. Efforts will now be made to keep the species alive through in vitro fertilization, and possibly by working with the rhinos' genetic material in a budding field known as de-extinction.

"We always knew from the very beginning that the chances of this working were small even if they bred," said Richard Vigne, chief executive of the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, where the rhinos have lived since December 2009.

The conservancy said in a statement Wednesday that artificial reproductive techniques "could provide the last chance of survival for the world's most endangered mammal."

That echoed the phrase written on the wooden crates the rhinos were transported in from Nairobi to Ol Pejeta: "Last Chance to Survive."

Some animal experts at the time said the effort was too little, too late, and that the experiment's budget could have been better



In this photo taken Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, female northern white rhino Fatu walks in her pen where she is being kept for observation at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya.



In this photo taken Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, female northern white rhino Najin walks in her pen where she is being kept for observation at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya.

Associated Press

spent on other conservation projects. But the bulk of the more than \$100,000 effort came from a donor — Alastair Lucas, then the vice chairman of Goldman Sachs in Australia — who wanted to see the project carried out.

Vigne said the project was not done in vain.

"They've been returned to Africa from a zoo, and they've thrived in that environment. In that way it's been a success," he said. "The fact they haven't bred is clearly a massive disappointment, but there are new technologies being invented all the time to rescue technically extinct species."

One of the two male rhinos transferred to Ol Pejeta died of an unknown cause earlier this year. Veterinarians that examined the remaining three last month determined that the male's sperm count is very low and that the two females either cannot get pregnant or not carry a pregnancy to term. The loss of the last six northern white rhinos does not signal the end of the rhino. Southern white and black rhinos still exist in bigger numbers. But southern

white rhinos cannot live in central Africa.

The in vitro fertilization experiment could take place with a southern white surrogate mother. And Vigne said scientists are working with old genetic material to see if they can resurrect the passenger pigeon or dodo bird. By contrast, he noted that the genetic material from northern whites is still alive.

Ol Pejeta sits on a high-elevation plain in view of Mount Kenya's slow and ominous rise. The conservancy has 104 black rhinos and 26 whites — mostly of the southern variety. Because of increasing demand for rhino horn in Vietnam — a phenomenon that has resulted in more than 3,000 rhinos killed by poachers in South Africa since 2010 — the animals must be closely guarded. Mohamed Doyo is one of the rhinos' main keepers.

He rubs their back and hind legs when they are inside their smaller wooden pens. And he helps shoo them outside into the much bigger penned area where they can roam.

He points out how Najin, the 25-year-old female rhino, has a pronounced limp, one of the reasons she likely cannot bear a calf. He blames it on her time in her concrete zoo pen.

The northern white rhino is a major mammalian species that is "probably or potentially" going to become extinct in the coming years, Vigne said, notwithstanding new reproductive technology.

"And to me that's a real indictment of the human race," he said. "We're all responsible for it, and to stand by and watch it happen ... I think would have been horribly wrong."

Former Miss America Mary Ann Mobley dies at 77

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former Miss America who went on to appear in movies with Elvis Presley and make documentary films around the world has died. A spokesman for the University of Mississippi confirmed Mary Ann Mobley Collins died Tuesday in Beverly Hills, California, after a battle with breast cancer. She was 77.

Danny Blanton of Ole Miss said Mobley Collins was close friends with a former chancellor of the university. She graduated from Ole Miss in 1958, the same year she won the Miss America crown.

She became an actress a few years later, with credits including such TV shows as "General Hospital" and "Perry Mason,"

and films such as "Girl Happy" with Presley and "Three on a Couch" with Jerry Lewis. It was on that film that she met her husband, actor Gary Collins, who died in 2012.

Mobley Collins was also a documentarian, traveling to Cambodia, Ethiopia,

Mozambique, Somalia, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Sudan to make movies about the struggles of homeless and starving children. □



This Oct. 1, 2005 photo provided by the University of Mississippi Communications shows Mary Ann Mobley, right, and husband Gary Collins, at the charity event Mississippi Rising, a fundraiser for Hurricane Katrina relief, held at Tad Smith Coliseum at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Miss.

Associated Press

Book edition of torture report coming Dec. 30

NEW YORK (AP) — A bound edition of the CIA torture report will be in stores by the end of the month.

Melville House announced Wednesday that it was publishing the Senate Intelligence Committee's "Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program," which accused the CIA of inflicting suffering on detainees beyond its legal limits and peddling unsubstantiated stories that harsh interrogations saved American lives. The book will be around 500 pages, representing the executive summary and conclusions of a still-classified 6,700-page full investigation, and is scheduled for Dec. 30.

The report is not subject to traditional copyright laws and may be issued by other publishers, too.

Several government releases have become best-sellers even though they can be read for free, including the probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the "9/11 Commission Report," a National Book Award finalist in 2004 for an edition published by W.W. Norton and Company.

Melville House publicity director Julia Fleischaker said the torture report would not include a foreword or any other commentary.

"We feel that it stands on its own as a historical document," she said. □

CBS sets Letterman's last show for next May 20

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 32 years of late-night talk will pass into history next May 20, with CBS' announcement Wednesday that David Letterman will host his final "Late Show" on that day. If Letterman makes all of his scheduled broadcasts until then, CBS said he will have hosted 6,028 versions of the "Late Show" and its NBC predecessor, "Late Night." Letterman moved to CBS in 1993. "David Letterman has given to all of us a remarkable legacy of achievement and creative brilliance that will never be forgotten," said Leslie Moonves, CBS Corp. president and CEO. "It's going to be tough to say goodbye, but I know we will all cherish the shows leading up to Dave's final broadcast in May." Letterman, 67, announced his impending retirement last April. CBS later named Stephen Colbert of Comedy



In this April 3, 2014 file photo provided by CBS, David Letterman, host of the "Late Show with David Letterman," waves to the audience in after announcing his retirement during a taping in New York. Letterman will host his final show on May 20.

Associated Press

Central as Letterman's replacement. Colbert hosts the last episode of "The Colbert Report" next week. CBS has not announced when Colbert will take over the "Late Show."

Letterman debuted on "Late Night" on NBC on Feb. 1, 1982. He jumped to CBS when NBC named Jay Leno instead of him as Johnny Carson's successor on the "Tonight" show. □

Sam Smith tops MTV's 2014 best artist list



In this Dec. 5, 2014 file photo, Sam Smith performs at the KIIS FM's Jingle Ball at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — This year's breakthrough new singer, Sam Smith, went from an artist to watch to MTV's Best Artist of 2014 and beat out megastars like Beyonce and Taylor Swift.

The 22-year-old Smith performed his soulful song,

"Stay With Me," at the 2014 MTV Video Music Awards, from his debut album, "In the Lonely Hour."

But Smith couldn't beat Iggy Azalea's catchy hit song "Fancy," which topped the list for MTV's Best Songs of 2014 and whose video was nominat-

ed for four awards at the VMAs. MTV's Best Movie of 2014 was "The LEGO Movie," a kid flick featuring the voices of Chris Pratt, Will Arnett and Elizabeth Banks.

The lists are selected by MTV executives based on influence and pop culture impact. □

Kirk and Anne Douglas reflect on 60-year romance

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— Kirk Douglas is done with writing.

The rakish screen legend with the famously dimpled chin made that abundantly clear on a recent afternoon at his Beverly Hills home, a few days before the release of his poetry collection "Life Could Be Verse: Reflections on Love, Loss, and What Really Matters."

"To me, this is my best book, and my last book," said Douglas, seated next to Anne Douglas, his wife of over 60 years.

It was a pronouncement that came up more than a few times. The "Spartacus" star, who just turned 98, has 87 films to his name, 11 books, and is one of the last living members of old Hollywood. By now, the world probably thinks it knows Kirk Douglas. But in some ways, "Life Could Be Verse" is his most personal work, featuring poems from throughout his life along with essays and private family photos that help paint a picture of Douglas as a man, a father and a husband.

In an industry not known for domestic stability, Kirk and Anne Douglas may be one of the great Hollywood romances. Seated closely on a cozy couch in a home that is elegant, modest and lived-in, the couple recalled their first meeting in Paris. He was working on the film "Act of Love." She was the publicist.

"I thought she was so beautiful, and I lowered my voice and said, 'Would you like to have dinner?'" he said. "I waited for an answer and she said, 'No, I think I will go home and make some eggs and go to bed.'"

Anne Douglas (then Buydens) had her own thoughts about transient movie stars. A lot of her friends were going out with actors at the time. "I said to myself, I'm not going to do that. I will work and I will do my work for the movie that I was hired for, but no intimate connection with the movie stars," she said.

Then she attended a charity event where actors played the parts of circus perform-



In this Friday, Dec. 5, 2014 photo, Kirk Douglas, right, and wife Anne Douglas pose for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

ers. Kirk Douglas, sporting a tuxedo, decided his talent would be cleaning up after the elephants.

"I held on until he picked up the elephant doo," she said, laughing heartily. "That did it for me."

Douglas, not missing a beat, chimed in: "Obviously she was looking for a garbage collector."

Still, a cute beginning is hardly noteworthy. Longevity is. "Romance begins at 80, and I ought to know," he said, referencing one of his poems.

"I'm a romantic guy. You think I'm always shooting guns with John Wayne, but I can be romantic. And, listen, we're sitting here. We have been married for 60 years. A few poems help."

Romance is just one of their secrets. Over the years, they have devoted themselves to philanthropy. The shared passion has been important for the couple, who've endured tragedy and loss, including his stroke in 1996 and the death of their youngest son, Eric Douglas, in 2004.

"Our goal has been, since we're able to do that, to

help a little bit and to share what you have with those in need. That has been a very big bond between us," said Anne Douglas.

They've sold art from their personal collection to help fund various causes, including the restoration of over 400 playgrounds in the Los Angeles area and the development of a shelter for homeless women downtown. In 2012, the couple pledged \$50 million to five charitable organizations.

Giving has been in Kirk Douglas' bones since childhood. "I was a boy who didn't have enough to eat. I had six sisters, no brothers. We were living by the railroad tracks and every night, hobos would come and knock on the door. And even though we didn't have enough, my mother always saved something so when they came to the door, she had something to give them. She taught me at an early age to help other people."

His career is pointedly on the back burner as he reflects on his life. A rebel on the screen and off, he counts crediting blacklisted

screenwriter Dalton Trumbo on "Spartacus" as his most rebellious move. "I was much younger then, and I was much more stubborn," he said.

Now, Kirk and Anne Douglas are focused on their home, family and reflecting on a

life well-lived. They recently hosted Thanksgiving at their home near Santa Barbara. Among the 14 attendees were Michael Douglas, his children and Michael Douglas' mother, actress Diana Dill, whom Anne Douglas refers to as "our ex-wife." □



In this Oct. 29, 2014 file photo, U.S. actress Lena Dunham holds her memoir, *Not That Kind Of Girl*, ahead of a book signing at Waterstones book shop, Piccadilly in central London.

Associated Press

Passage on assault to be clarified in Dunham book

NEW YORK (AP) — A section from Lena Dunham's "Not That Kind of Girl" that recounts an alleged assault while she was in college is being changed to make clear that the assailant's name is a pseudonym.

Random House announced Tuesday that both the digital edition and future print editions of Dunham's best-selling memoir will include the clarification. The book already included a disclaimer saying that some names and details had been changed, but did not say precisely that "Barry" was not the real name of Dunham's alleged assailant.

The publisher's announcement comes after an article last week from the conservative news site www.breitbart.com that challenged Dunham's story that she was attacked by a campus Republican. Breitbart reported that Dunham had an Oberlin classmate named "Barry"

but neither he nor anyone else fully matched the description Dunham gave in the book.

In a statement issued Tuesday night through BuzzFeed, Dunham apologized for any discomfort the use of the pseudonym may have caused a former classmate.

"'Barry' is a pseudonym, not the name of the man who assaulted me, and any resemblance to a person with this name is an unfortunate and surreal coincidence. I am sorry about all he has experienced," Dunham wrote.

"Speaking out was never about exposing the man who assaulted me. Rather, it was about exposing my shame, letting it dry out in the sun. I did not wish to be contacted by him or to open a criminal investigation."

Dunham is the creator, writer and star of the HBO comedy-drama series "Girls" about young women living in Brooklyn. □

Gifts That Inspire



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
© 2014 New York Times

Along with falling leaves and first snows, it's time for my annual holiday gift guide, offering suggestions for presents with meaning. At a time of racial division and inequity in America, Equal Justice Initiative, ejl.org, fights on behalf of low-income people snared unfairly by the justice system. The group is led by Bryan Stevenson, an African-American lawyer whom Desmond Tutu has called America's Mandela.

Equal Justice Initiative fights an uphill battle against mass incarceration. It is a lifeline for innocent people who have been railroaded, and for children in prison. Donations finance its work as the conscience of the justice system.

Camfed, or the Campaign for Female Education, camfed.org, supports girls' education in Africa.

Supporting Camfed is a way to stand up for girls' education, especially after the terrorist group Boko Haram kidnapped nearly 300 schoolgirls in northern Nigeria this year. Just \$10 buys a girl a school-supplies kit for elementary school. Or \$25 buys her the shoes she must have to attend school. Or \$300 sends her to a year of high school.

Evidence Action, evidenceaction.org, started by economist geeks, applies lessons from randomized trials to spend money in the most cost-effective ways. For example, a bleach dispenser provides a family with clean drinking water for a year and significantly reduces disease at a cost of just 70 cents per person. Or 50 cents will deworm a child, making that child less anemic, more healthy and better able to thrive in school. Millions of children worldwide still carry intestinal parasites that impair their learning as well as their health and nutrition.

Red Cloud Indian School is a private Lakota and Jesuit K-12 school educating 600 children on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. On a reservation notorious for alcoholism, unemployment and poverty, the Red Cloud school, redcloud-school.org, is a beacon of hope. Students volunteer on the reservation, and they go on to some of the best universities in the country, returning as leaders. The school accepts donations

and full-time volunteers, and it also sells holiday gifts on its website - including nifty earrings and bracelets made out of porcupine quills, for \$18 and up.

Future Doctors for South Sudan, futuredoctors.org, was started by Dr. Ken Waxman, an American physician in Santa Barbara, California. He was working in war-torn South Sudan, where a girl is more likely to die in childbirth than to learn to read - partly because there are so few doctors. Waxman realized that one solution is to train talented young South Sudanese to become doctors themselves.

So he and others are sponsoring brilliant South Sudanese students to attend medical schools in Kenya or Uganda and then go home to practice and help build up their own country.

OneGoal, onegoalgraduation.org, tackles head-on one of the great gaps in this country: 82 percent of American kids from high-income families graduate from college, but only 8 percent of low-income children do. OneGoal offers a three-year program designed to coach disadvantaged high school students to put them on track to success in college.

A new University of Chicago study found that OneGoal lowered arrest rates in high school and made students more likely to enroll in and graduate from college, and thus break the cycle of poverty.

A group called 20/20/20 helps the blind see. It provides free cataract surgery to impoverished people abroad who otherwise might end up beggars. The cost is just \$35 per adult or \$300 per child (because children require general anesthesia). Imagine being blind for want of \$35! Visit the 20/20/20 website at 20x20x20.org to see a video of two sisters in India who were blind from cataracts and received this surgery. When the bandages come off their eyes and they take in their surroundings, chills will go down your spine. You'll understand why my purpose is to provide an opportunity to share gifts of hope.

It's also time to announce my next annual win-a-trip contest, in which I take a university student with me on a reporting trip to the developing world. The winner will write posts for my blog on the New York Times website. I've been holding the win-a-trip contest since 2006, and one former winner, Mitch Smith, is now a Times reporter.

One possible destination for our 2015 trip is Congo; another is India and Nepal. Information about the contest and how to apply is at my blog, nytimes.com/onthebound. As before, the Center for Global Development in Washington will screen applications and pick finalists. I'm looking for a smart undergraduate or graduate student with great storytelling skills who wants to help shine a light on neglected issues and doesn't mind bedbugs or warlords. Please pass the word if you know just the candidate.



The Woes of Working Women



GAIL COLLINS
© 2014 New York Times

Today, let's take a look at the Little Bill That Couldn't.

Say hello to the Pregnancy Workers Fairness Act. It's sort of shy, but if you look over there behind the ottoman, you may see it peeking out.

The bill would require employers to make "reasonable accommodations" for workers who become pregnant. You may be stunned to hear that this does not always happen now in the American workplace. Consider Heather Myers, a floor worker in the infant department at a Wal-Mart in Kansas whose obstetrician told her to drink liquids. She was then fired for bringing a water bottle to work.

This week, the Supreme Court heard the case of Peggy Young, a United Parcel Service driver who was put on an unpaid disability leave after her doctor told her she should avoid lifting bundles that weighed more than 20 pounds. That was not much of a problem, since Peggy mainly spent her days delivering envelopes. And we know that UPS had the capacity to make reasonable accommodations because it has changed its policy and now makes ... reasonable accommodations.

Young's case is getting support from both sides of the great, gaping abortion divide. On the day of her hearing, everybody was united behind working women who wanted to have children.

"I think we're always looking for common ground, and when we can agree - it's magic," said Marjorie Dannenfelser of the anti-abortion Susan B. Anthony List. (Hear that, little bill? Come on out. Everybody's on your side. We'll take a selfie!)

This high-minded rapprochement, alas, has not made its way into the halls of Congress. Thirty-three senators have signed onto the Pregnancy Workers Fairness Act, and 142 members of the House. They're all Democrats.

"This bill has a lot of support, but it's not yet bipartisan. That's the problem," said Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, the lead sponsor in the Senate.

For sure, given that the next session of Congress is going to be entirely run by Republicans.

The lead House sponsor, Jerrold Nadler of New York, says he's hoping some of the anti-abortion groups who have signed onto Peggy Young's case will start pressing their congressional allies to come around on a bill that would solve the Peggy Young problem. But, so far, there doesn't seem to be much progress.

The Susan B. Anthony List hasn't taken a position on the matter. "We have one bill and that's our priority and that's kind of the way it works," said Dannenfelser. This would be the ban on abortions beyond the first 20 weeks of a pregnancy.

Nadler, listing what progress there has been, mentioned getting the bill included as "part of the Democratic women's agenda - although it wasn't mentioned all the time. To my annoyance."

OK, not looking good for the Pregnant Workers. Damned bill's crawled under the couch.

Emily Martin, vice president of the National Women's Law Center, has been lobbying for the bill, and she says she's had meetings with Republican lawmakers that were "very positive," in a no-action kind of way. "It's been hard to get somebody to take the leap to be the first Republican,"

she said.

This is the way politics goes. Nobody's making you do it, so you don't. Anyway, businesses probably wouldn't like it. (The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce is listed as a supporter. This is not to be confused with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which hasn't taken a position. "You'll find that on the majority of issues, we're on the opposite side of the table," said Margot Dorfman, who leads the women's group.) What we have here is a bill that's been kicking around for more than a year, during which time a multitude of Democrats have signed on without making any superhuman efforts to win over their Republican colleagues. The Republicans, who have been complaining mightily about being branded anti-women during the election season, have been making quiet murmurs of agreement but don't want to go out of their way to promote something the Democrats started.

And here we are, in a country where more than two-thirds of mothers work, most of them full time. We have interesting debates about whether young mothers should opt out of the workplace, ignoring that most of them have no option whatsoever on the opting question.

Our institutions cheerfully refuse to restructure themselves to reflect the fact that most families do not contain a non-working parent. Congress has been debating early education programs for more than 40 years and it has hardly made a dent. A great many of our employers don't bother to make jobs more family-friendly; they don't even bother to make modest arrangements to accommodate their pregnant workers. Everybody thinks this is extremely unfortunate, but almost nobody does anything about it because there is not a lot of political or financial reward for siding with working mothers.

OK, rant is over. Sorry, I think I scared the little bill.



Challah You Bake Yourself Is Worth It

Orange-scented challah with toasted fennel seeds, in Washington. No matter how good a bakery challah tastes, baking it yourself tastes better because it is most likely fresher and not so inflated with air.

(Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

JOAN NATHAN

© 2014 New York Times

No matter how good a bakery challah tastes, baking it myself tastes better. Golden and fragrant and topped with toasted seeds, mine will be on the table for the first night of Hanukkah on Dec. 16.

Homemade is better because it is most likely fresher and not so inflated with air. It may take more effort than picking up at loaf at the store, but it is worth it.

In 2001, I wrote a recipe called My Favorite Challah. But I have been baking challah since I was in my early 20s and I am always refining and improving the recipe.

My new favorite is easier than the earlier version, and it adds fennel seeds to the usual topping of poppy or sesame seeds.

Rather than reinvent for the sake of reinvention, I prefer to combine and interweave elements of various Jewish traditions that I have

discovered from around the world. Fennel or anise is a traditional element of Moroccan Jewish challah. And because fennel and orange go so well together, I include a bit of orange zest with some fresh orange juice in the dough for its scent and brightness. The added flavor and natural sweetness from the orange allows for a reduction in the amount of sugar.

I usually make the dough a day ahead and put it in the refrigerator to rise slowly so that I can maintain control and adjust the baking to my schedule. When my children were little, I used to make the dough before they came home from school, then asked them to punch it down and braid it. Shaping dough was the perfect task for young cooks, especially as a distraction if they had been bickering.

Although I am partial to a six-braided challah, when I am in a hurry, I make a long cylinder, fold it over and then twist three times

to form a spiral sort of braid. Then I squish the braid together so it will be squatter and fatter, or I stretch it longer and swirl it into a circle. Dried fennel seeds from my garden are scattered on top, along with sesame and poppy seeds. Hot from the oven, it begins my Hanukkah meal.

FENNEL & ORANGE SCENTED CHALLAH

Time: About 1 hour, plus rising time

Yield: 2 loaves

1 1/2 tablespoons (2 packages) active dry yeast
1 tablespoon plus 1/3 cup sugar

Grated zest from 2 large oranges plus 1/2 cup of the juice, strained

1/3 cup vegetable or canola oil

3 large eggs, plus 1 egg yolk

1 tablespoon salt

7 1/2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour, plus more as needed

1 tablespoon fennel seeds

2 teaspoons poppy seeds

2 teaspoons roasted sesame seeds

1. In the bowl of a standing mixer, dissolve yeast and 1 tablespoon sugar in 1 cup of lukewarm water.

2. Using the paddle attachment, stir orange zest, juice and oil into yeast mixture, then add two eggs, one at a time, and remaining sugar and salt. Switch to the dough hook and gradually add 6 cups of flour, kneading for about five minutes and adding more flour as needed to make a slightly sticky, smooth and elastic dough.

3. Grease a large bowl, turn dough into it and then turn the dough over to grease the top. Cover with greased plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place for one hour, or refrigerate for a few hours or overnight.

4. When the dough has almost doubled, punch it down, remove it to a lightly floured counter, knead it briefly until smooth and divide it in half. Roll each piece into a cylinder about 27 inches long, making sure

there are no seams in the dough.

Bring one end of the dough up to the other and twist to form a spiral. Push both ends together to make a squat 12-inch loaf. Repeat with other piece of dough and arrange loaves on a parchment-lined baking sheet at least 2 inches apart. You can also twist the long spirals into a circle if you like; the dough is very malleable.

5. Beat remaining egg and egg yolk and brush about half the mixture on the loaves, reserving the rest. Let the dough rise uncovered another half-hour or overnight in refrigerator.

6. If dough was refrigerated, bring to room temperature. Heat oven to 350 degrees and in a small bowl, combine fennel, poppy and sesame seeds. Brush the loaves with egg again and sprinkle with seeds.

7. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until golden and firm when tapped with a spatula. Cool on a rack. □